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JULY 1994

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He's a successful Intercontinental champion. No one calls him an underachiever anymore. Yet Razor Ramon still may not be able to deal with success

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With his legal problems behind him, the Memphis monarch hopes to recapture his national renown. Lawler frankly discusses his recent ordeal

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The Garbage Man may have cleaned up at the tail end of the "PWI 500" parade, but the anchor of the survey made a successful debut in the WWF

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May 17, 1994

between //s

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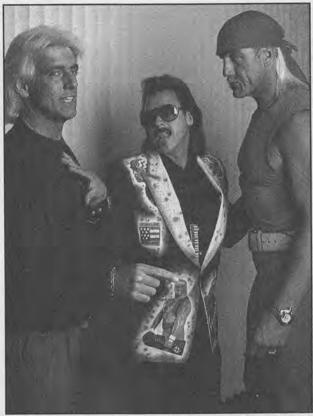
In our May 1994 issue, we said a rematch between Yokozuna and Lex Luger would make Wrestle-Mania X a "10." We received a lot of mail about the World title matches at WrestleMania. Most readers were thrilled to see Luger receive another title shot.

"Yokozuna, Jim Cornette, and Mr. Fuji got what they deserved," wrote Merle Richards of Fort Myers, Florida. "Lex has been deserving of a rematch for a long time. His performance at the Royal Rumble only confirmed that. He is a true American patriot."

"With Bret Hart and Lex Luger both getting title shots on March 20, I think WrestleMania X is more than a 10!" wrote Rich Waggoner of Tulsa, Oklahoma. "I hope this is the start of a friendly rivalry between Lex and the 'Hitman."

There were only a few dissenters.

"Give The Undertaker a rematch," wrote Marianne Smythe of Terre Haute, Indiana. "He's the only man who can beat Yokozuna. Just let him have a fair match. I'm still not convinced Luger is a real hero."



Could an alliance between Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan work? Reader Genevieve Romeo says no. She claims both wrestlers' egos would prohibit them from co-existing.

UNSTABLE STABLE

Your April 1994 issue had an article mentioning that Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan might be forming an alliance ("The Making Of A Super-Stable? Hogan And Flair's Secret Meeting—And *PWI* Was There!"). I say that it could never happen.

Flair and Hogan have the two biggest egos in the sport. How on Earth would they co-exist? Both men would compete for the attention of the fans, causing major disputes and possibly even a switch to rulebreaking for one. Now *that* would be interesting.

GENEVIEVE ROMEO Yonkers, NY

'TAKER GOT TAKEN

Question: What if Randy Savage was getting double- or triple-teamed by WWF rulebreakers? Lex Luger or Bret Hart would undoubtedly rush out of the dressing room and come to his rescue. What happens when The Undertaker is getting beaten up by 10 men? Not a single fan favorite comes to his aid!

I am referring, of course, to the WWF World title match at the 1994 Royal Rumble. Yokozuna was on the brink of losing the belt when Crush came to ringside. He was followed by Bam Bam Bigelow, The Headshrinkers, Adam Bomb, and others. I realize

this was a no-disqualification match, but come on! I think the fan favorites in the WWF just didn't want to face The Undertaker at WrestleMania X.

BRANDON T. LURIE Englishtown, NJ

VON ERICH TRIBUTE

Like thousands of others, I was devastated when I heard that Kerry Von Erich had committed suicide last February. His death left me wondering what would become of Kevin. Your "Press Conference" interview with Kevin (April 1994) made me cry because I miss Kerry. It also brought me some sense of relief when I found



Many fondly remember Kerry Von Erich, including reader Lana LaSalle. She thanks PWI for running a moving "Press Conference" with surviving brother Kevin Von Erich.

out that Kevin is determined to make it despite all of the tragedies he's had to face. Kevin's account of his last hour with Kerry left me in tears. His courage is truly inspiring. Please stay strong, Kevin! We love you.

LANA LaSALLE Ottawa, Ontario

HELPING OUT

In the wake of all the negative news generated by many wrestlers today (e.g. Jerry Lawler, Arn Anderson-Sid Vicious), I thought I'd tell you about a wrestler who is doing good. One day when I went to my job at a local supermarket, I was stunned to discover Vladimir Koloff seated at a table just inside the door. It seems that his fiancee is from the area and he was spending some time here.

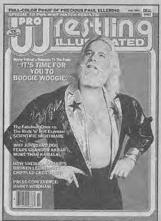
While he was in the area, he contacted our store and asked if it would be okay if he were to sign autographs and take pictures with fans for a fee, with all proceeds going to the Help-Fill-A-Dream Foundation. The store agreed, and Vladimir talked to everyone interested in dealing with him. He

(Continued on page 56)



Vladimir Koloff won points with reader Jack Harrison recently. During a stay in British Columbia, he signed autographs and had pictures taken with fans at a local supermarket, with all money going to charity.

10 YEARS AGO IN PWI



The cover of the July 1984 issue featured Jimmy Valiant, whose message to his fans was, "It's Time For You To Boogie Woogie!" He vowed revenge against Paul Jones and The Assassins, who had recently cut off his beard. Valiant also vented anger at NWA World tag team champions "Cowboy" Bob Orton and Don Kernodle, as well as their manager, Gary Hart.

The centerfold featured "Precious" Paul Ellering, manager of The Road Warriors. A former football player and wrestler at South Dakota State, Ellering wrestled professionally for a time, then began guiding Hawk and Animal's careers. He also acquired the contracts of Jake Roberts and The Spoiler, forming a stable he called "The Legion Of Doom."

Elsewhere in the magazine: In "Press Conference," Barry Windham continued to emphatically deny he was the masked "Dirty Yellow Dog." who was wreaking havoc in Florida ... A rare match between fan favorite tag teams was discussed in "The Rock 'n' Roll Express vs. The Fabulous Ones: Scientific Nightmare" ... Junkyard Dog expressed his concern about a rival's manager in "Why Junkyard Dog Fears Skandor Akbar More Than Kamala" ... In "Off The Top Rope," Dan Shocket apologized for a column in the May 1984 issue picking on the Von Erichs. It had hit the newsstands at about the same time that David Von Erich died. In a tragic irony, Shocket himself would die the following May 4.

Magazine availability: limited.

With Bill Apter

Big VAN VADER was WCW World champion for all but 10 days during the calendar year 1993. As things stand now, he may find it hard to be champ for 10 days during all of 1994.

Vader lost the belt to **Ric Flair** at Starrcade on December 27, 1993, then failed to win it back at SuperBrawl IV. The SuperBrawl loss came amidst murky circumstances, as special guest referee **The Boss** ruled Vader had submitted to Flair's figure-four; Vader vehemently denies giving up.

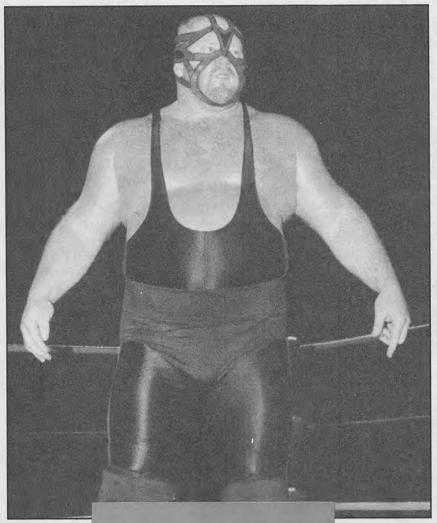
To make matters worse for Vader, he may not get another title shot for a while. WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel ruled that Flair would face long-time foe and current friend Rick Steamboat at Spring Stampede in suburban Chicago. Vader? He was slated to meet Boss in a grudge match. What must Harley Race do to get his man back in contention?

If companies can merge, so can tag teams. Remember The Fabulous Ones and The Midnight Express? Well, get ready for The Fabulous Express, made up of the Fabs' Steve Keirn and the Midnights' Bobby Eaton. Keirn has already criticized Arn Anderson for claiming to be a great tag team wrestler. Of course, Arn hasn't had a regular partner since returning to action last December.

The moves were only coincidental, but WCW has in effect traded its "first ladies," with Sherri Martel replacing Missy Hyatt. WCW banned the popular

Hyatt, manager of tag team champions **The Nasty Boys**, for undisclosed reasons. The Nastys claim the move was made solely to infuriate them.

Martel has primarily been a manager since leaving the WWF last year, and will continue



Big Van Vader may be the odd man out in WCW this year. The former World champion was ruled to have lost to Ric Flair by submission at SuperBrawl IV, and Vader's not presently in line for a title shot.

that role in WCW. She's managing the team of **Kevin Sullivan** and **The Equalizer**, though she'll also appear in ECW and other independent federations. As for Hyatt's next move, read below ...

Madusa Miceli is back! Well, sort of. At the request of Japanese promoters, WWF World Women's champion Alundra Blayze will wrestle under her previous moniker when the federation tours Japan in May. "Not many people here know the name Alundra Blayze," says correspondent Koichi Yoshizawa, "but Madusa is virtually a household name in Japan from her success here several years ago." She's also billed as Madusa on U.S. independent cards.

Schyster playfully attempt to pluck some of its feathers. He immediately stormed after IRS.

Schyster's old partner, **Ted DiBiase**, probably won't wrestle at all during 1994. The "Million-Dollar-Man" is still recuperating from a severe neck injury he sustained while wrestling in Japan last November. DiBiase was **Vince McMahon's** analyst at the Royal Rumble, and may return to

the broadcast table. There's also talk he may manage. Wonder if Irwin is interested?

Throughout Terry Funk's long and amazing career, he's done it

Madusa Miceli's going back to Japan ... as Madusa! At the request of Far East promoters, WWF World Women's champion Alundra Blayze will be billed under her old name when the federation tours Japan in

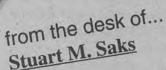


Miceli (or Blayze) will wrestle four times in Japan against stars of All-Japan Women. She'll twice face 210-pound Bull Nakano, and she'll accept the challenge Kyoko Inoue and Sakie Hasegawa once each. Among the male Japanese stars slated to face the WWF's best are Genichiro Tenryu, Masashi Aoyagi, and Ginsei Shinzaki.

Tatanka recently received a ceremonial headdress from Native American wrestling legends Wahoo McDaniel and Chief Jay Strongbow. Tatanka put the headdress in a corner during his match against Kwang the Ninja in Poughkeepsie, New York, only to see Irwin R.

all. And that now includes a moonsault! He used the maneuver during his loss to **The Bullet** in a Texas death match at Smoky Mountain's "Sunday, Bloody Sunday" card in Knoxville, Tennessee. However, Funk—who's on the verge of turning 50—says he probably will leave moonsaults to youngsters like Vader in the future. SMW set an attendance record, drawing 4,100 fans in a region plagued by ice storms. On that card, "**Dirty White Boy**" **Tony Anthony** defeated **Brian Lee** in a Tennessee chain match for the SMW belt.

Funk is also making his presence felt in ECW. (Continued on page 54)



When you hear the name Jim Cornette, what Stuart M. Saks

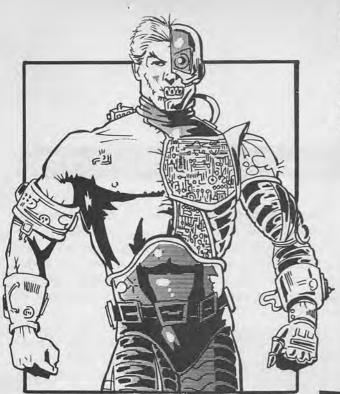
comes to mind? Loud, obnoxious, devious? "I know, I know," he says. "My mother probably

But there are things Mama Cornette knows about would say the same thing." her boy that you probably don't. Same with Mama Dangerously, Mama Fytch, and probably even Mama Fuji. You see these men and women for their big mouths and interfering hands; those who

know them best see beyond the obvious. "Not that this bothers me (obviously it does or why bring it up?)," said Cornette, "but these people don't know what the heck I do for my wrestlers. Many wrestling fans come up to me or write me and tell me that they could be a better manager than me because they can win a rank-out session with their little sister. These people don't have a clue."

I am not a supporter of managers, primarily because 90 percent of all the managers in history were in the camps of rulebreakers, but I have to speak on Cornette's behalf here. I can't tell you how many times I've called him for a quote and was told that either he was at an investors' meeting or he was studying videotapes or he was work-

"I don't want to speak for every manager in this ing with his wrestler in the gym. sport," Cornette said, "because some of them are indeed hired thugs who do nothing more than stand there at ringside and take shots at the opposition. There's a place for that kind of behavior, don't get me wrong, but 90 percent of a manager's worth is in preparation. If your wrestler is not prepared properly, there's not much you can do (Continued on page 52)



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AIRANA GOLDS By Craig Peters

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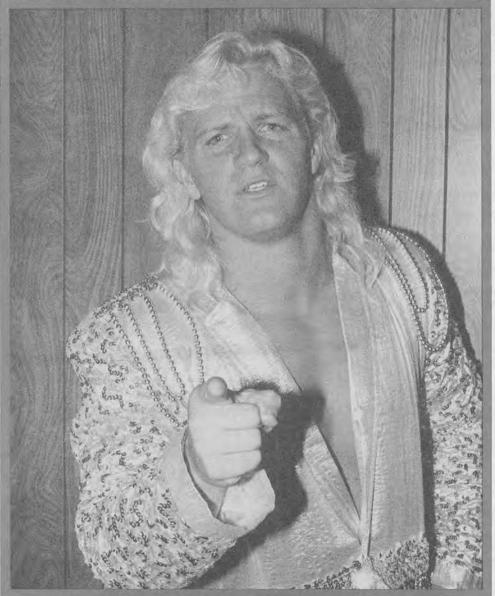
Every few years, we like to find out who our readers are. Oh, sure, we know many of you very well from the letters you write, but we want to know a little more. We want to assemble some statistics and facts and numbers and so forth so we can compare the audience we're reaching today with the audience we've had in the past.

Toward this noble end, we've assembled the survey you see at the right. It asks you to give us a little more information about yourself than you'd normally give your friendly neighborhood loan officer, but it's all for a good cause. Once we compile all this information, we're going to use it as a way of gauging what sort of improvements and changes we might be able to make in *PWI*.

As an incentive to you to fill out and mail in the survey, 10 completed surveys will be chosen at random, and those people (should they choose to include their names and addresses; it's okay to be anonymous in this survey, too, if you want) will receive a one-year subscription to *PWI*. If you're already a subscriber, your subscription will be extended by a year.

(Note: The 10 winners of the subscriptions will be chosen on or about May 1, and the names, along with some poll results, will be printed in the October 1994 edition of "In Focus.")

So sharpen those pencils or uncap those pens and mail in your survey today!



Sorry, Jeff Jarrett. This is a survey for Pro Wrestling Illustrated, not CountryBeat magazine!

male female	What causes you to buy a wrestling magazine off the newsstand?		How many pay-per-view cards have you ordered in the past year?	
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PTHQUAKE

Earthquake is back in the WWF ... and this time, he's carrying himself as a fan favorite. In light of his murky rulebreaking background, the obvious question is: Can he be trusted?

HEN I HEARD that Earthquake was returning to the WWF, my first reaction was something like "Oh."

I really didn't care. I didn't think much of the man and hadn't thought much of him in a long while.

Actually, it would have been a good thing to forget him. This was the man who formed one-half of The Natural Disasters, a tag team notorious for inflicting unnecessary punishment on its foes. Even though they captured the WWF World tag title, it was easy not to respect them.

Worse than that, Earthquake was the man who nearly ended Hulk Hogan's career a few years ago. He was not simply trying to win a match, but really attempted to sideline the "Hulkster" permanently. Thankfully, he did not succeed, and it was satisfying to watch Hogan gain his revenge at SummerSlam.

I knew that for much of 1993 Earthquake had competed in Japan and fared quite well. Seeing his name in a correspondent's report, I sometimes would wonder what nasty injury he had tried to inflict on his opponent

that night. I expected as much from him.

It's not that Earthquake isn't a fine wrestler. He was a sumo champion. He displays a fair amount of scientific knowledge and he uses his immenseness to full advantage. The problem was that almost every time Earthquake used that size, he used it badly.

Not when he returned, though.

He must be commended for interfering in a recent Bret Hart-Shawn Michaels match. Commended because he saved Hart from the wrath of Michaels' bodyguard, Diesel. In that instance there is no doubt Earthquake did the right thing. Diesel deserved the whipping.

However, it is way too early to point to that incident as the beginning of a new era of cooperation between Hart and Earthquake. The behemoth has not done nearly enough to prove he deserves that sort of trust. Hart is intelligent enough to know that. He certainly will not risk another shot at the WWF World title by comfortably turning his back on an old enemy, even if they are both Canadian.

A bit more encouraging are the victories Earthquake has scored over Bastion Booger. If he's willing to get in the ring to combat that foul blob, there must be something good about him.

Again, I wouldn't send away for an Earthquake Fan Club kit yet. His past demands that one take up his cause very carefully.

(Continued on page 58)



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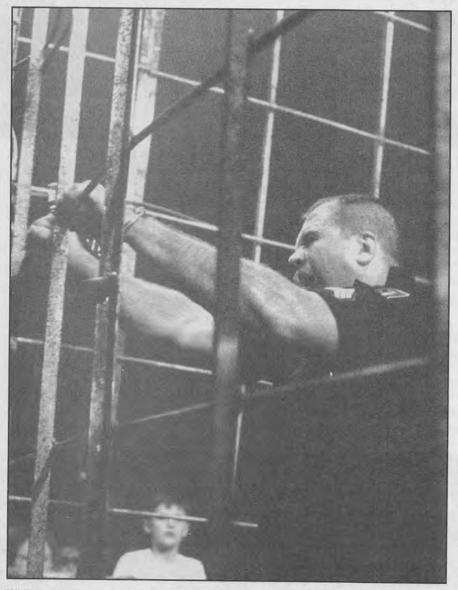
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While it was rather amusing to see special referee The Boss chained to the cage during the Ric Flair-Big Van Vader match at SuperBrawl IV, it still doesn't excuse WCW for hiring a novice to officiate the bout in the first place.

HANKFULLY, THE RUMORS were apparently unsubstantiated. Former Vice President Dan Quayle was not scheduled to be the special referee at the Spring Stampede World title match in Chicago between Rick Steamboat and Ric Flair.

However, WCW could have done worse. In fact, it did when it appointed The Boss as special referee for the recent title match between Flair and Big Van Vader at SuperBrawl IV in Albany, Georgia.

Plenty of eyebrows were raised when WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel named Boss to officiate the no-disqualification steel cage match. On the basis of experience alone, Boss should not even have been considered for the position. He is a wrestler, not a referee. His experience as the third man in the ring is limited to full-speed charges from the locker room in an attempt to right some wrong for the good of the sport.

But the decision looked even worse when one considered his background. He is a former prison guard who has has spent the majority of his adult life battling rulebreakers, both inside the ring and out. What sort of impartiality was WCW hoping to receive from a man who swings a nightstick the instant his morals are offended?

Then again, maybe we shouldn't be surprised. After all, Bockwinkel and Boss are employees of WCW, which is owned by Ted Turner. The multimillionaire media mogul also owns TBS, the cable superstation where you can hear announcer Skip Caray refer to the Atlanta Braves as "we," as in, "Boy, we could sure use a hit right now."

The inexperience displayed by Boss was as clear as bottled water. In an attempt to discourage manager Harley Race from interfering on Vader's behalf, Boss tried to handcuff Race to the cage. Seconds later, he himself was handcuffed to the cage, posing for the next Police Academy sequel.

While Vader and Race were pummeling Flair, Boss somehow managed to wriggle himself free of one embarrassing moment and immerse himself in another. He stormed the cage and nailed Vader

trusty nightstick, something he obviously picked up from the brutal world of figure skating.

I can see it now. Game 7 of the 1994 World Series. Toronto trails San Francisco, 3-2, with two outs in the top of the ninth. Paul Molitor is on second and Joe Carter singles up the middle off Rod Beck. Molitor races around third, but before he can score the tying run, he is tripped by third base umpire Bruce Froemming and tagged out by Matt Williams. The Giants win the Series, ending a 40-year drought!

For this paragraph, I am appointing myself WCW commissioner. Bockwinkel is fined \$25,000 for selecting Boss as special referee. Boss is suspended for three months without pay. The money from both impositions goes to the

Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, where doctors are trying to find a cure for stupidity. And Vader gets a rematch with Flair, with Race banned from ringside.

Well, that ends my reign as commissioner. Instead. Bockwinkel and Boss will be hailed as heroes and Vader will go to the end of a long line of contenders that want a title shot, believing Flair is on the verge of a physical breakdown after his fortysomething body has been subjected to a pair of tremendous beatings over an eight-week period.

At the front of that line was Steamboat, who happens to be one of my favorite wrestlers. He also happened to be a forgotten man in the WCW title picture, though he was one of just five current wrestlers who has held an NWA/WCW World title. My record book says moment he first set boot in a ring and has remained true to his trade. His loving relationship with wife, Bonnie, and son, Ricky, are welldocumented.

Flair, on the other hand, has been wrestling's chameleon. He has adjusted his attitude throughout his storied career whenever it served as a means to an end. After



If Chris Bernucca became WCW commissioner, he would fine Nick Bockwinkel \$25,000 for selecting The Boss as a special referee.

Steamboat's title came in 1989. Against Flair. In Chicago. Hmmm.

A Flair-Steamboat title match also meant a pair of fan favorites would battle for the belt. The last time that happened, Sting was a singer, performing with The Police. Interesting.

But what made the matchup most intriguing is the character of both men. Steamboat is the undisputed champion of family values. He has been a fan favorite from the

years of purported womanizing, he claims to have matured, showcasing his wife and four children and declaring himself a changed man.

More would be on the line in a match between Steamboat and Flair than just the WCW World title. The very essence of family values would be at stake. Steamboat has lived it, while Flair has adopted it. Both men were ready to defend it.

I wonder if Quayle bought the pay-per-view?



If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag, send your letters to:

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(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

JUST BECAUSE 1 publish a magazine devoted to the philosophy and celebrating the art of rulebreaking (Wrestling 94: Rulebreaker, next issue on sale May 31) doesn't mean we ignore violations of taste and etiquette in these pages.

On a recent WWF Monday Night Raw, Randy Savage attacked WWF champion Yokozuna before the opening bell. This in itself is not unusual, as Savage has been given to bizarre mood swings ever since Elizabeth dumped and divorced him. Nor was the blatant cheerleading performed by Vince (Under Indictment) McMahon in any way a departure from the norm. That's what finally struck me, the utter normalcy in which these events unfolded.

Yokozuna is attacked while undressing, a vulnerable target easily injured. The match progresses without any mention, let alone a condemnation, of the assault. The message is painfully clear: It is okay to ignore the rules if you are a fan favorite. Might makes right. The majority rules.

Well, get this: In over two dozen magazine stands I monitor, Rulebreaker outsells this magazine by almost two-to-one. This message is clear, too—our day is coming. Soon we will be the majority, and upon that day there will be hell to pay.

Dear Eddie,

I'm not only a fan of *PWI* but a wrestler as well. I would like to warn WCW and the WWF to keep an eye out for me and not to count me short.

BRYAN STEVENS Liberty, SC

Dear Readers,

Bryan includes two photos taken in either his kitchen or the kitchen of the house he was breaking into. Bryan could pass for a wrestler, provided white trash of America started its own federation. He could also pass for a serial killer. I notice a big bag of cat food and several baby pictures in the background. I'm sure the FBI



Randy Savage attacks Yokozuna before a match, and everything seems normal. But when things happen the other way around, Eddie Ellner says, Vince McMahon and his lackeys go ballistic.



Killer Kowalski challenged, and beat, immortals such as Lou Thesz. In contrast, Rick Martel has recently conquered the likes of Owen Hart and Marty Jannetty.

will detect other clues, as I have sent them both photos and his disturbing letter. Sleep better tonight, South Carolina.

Dear Eddie,

To say Killer Kowalski could give "The Model" Rick Martel a run for his money, as you did in the April issue, is absurd. Just in the past month, the "stiff," as you called Martel, defeated Owen Hart and Marty Jannetty and was a co-winner of a 20-man battle royal. Kowalski was a great rulebreaker in his time, but do you sincerely believe he could keep to Martel's standards?

ANDREW ELY Kutztown, PA

Dear Andrew, Yes, I do.

Dear Eddie,

This regards the April 1994 "Steel Cage" column in which Chris Bernucca accuses Vince McMahon for the downfall of pro wrestling. Do you agree with this nonsense? You're much smarter than that.

KEVIN KLEINROCK Van Nuys, CA (Continued on page 50)

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Hulk Hogan hails from which California beach community?

- 1) Malibu
- 2) Pacific Heights
- Venice Beach
- 4) Newport Beach

At what University did Ron Simmons play football?

- 1) Notre Dame
- 2) Florida State University
- 3) Michigan State University
- 4) Oglethorpe University

True or False: Giant Gonzales competed in the 1984 Olympics as a member of Argentina's water polo team

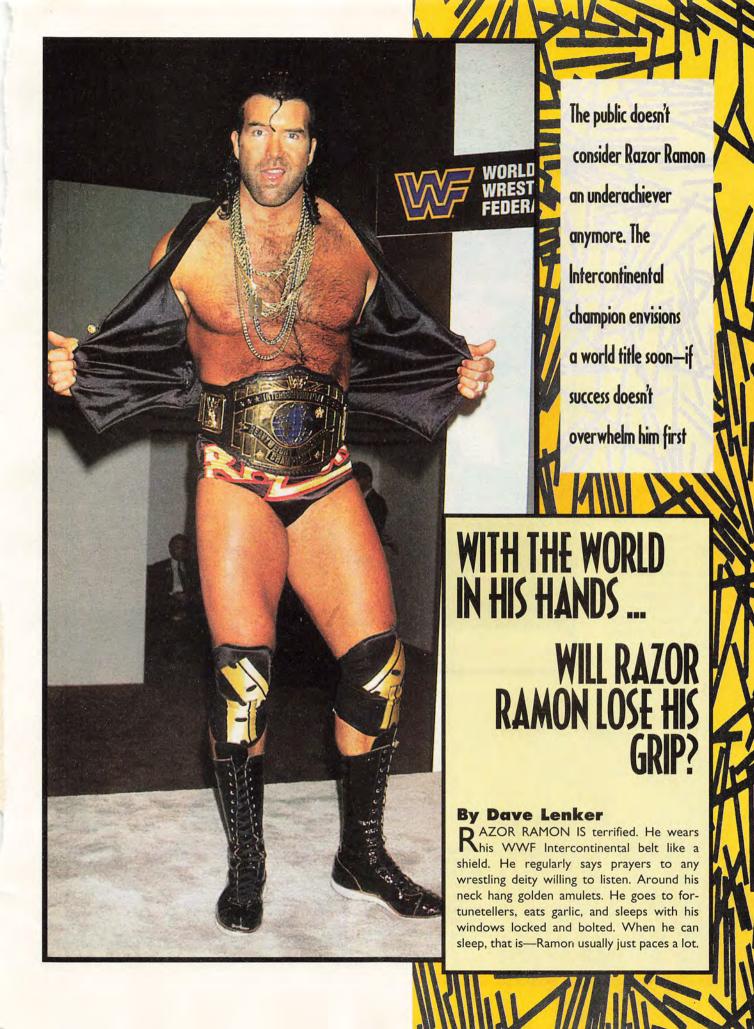
- 1) True 2) False

The Undertaker was once tag team partners with...

- 1) Lou Albano
- Sergeant Slaughter
 Rick Steiner
 None of the above

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To understand why the WWF's I-C champion—in public, one of the world's most arrogant and confident wrestlers—can't sleep at night, one must go back to another time, another place, another name.

Minnesota, 1986. Scott Hall and his partner, Curt Hennig, have just captured the AWA World tag team championship. While Hennig is the more famous member of the Twin Citiesbased team, it is upon the youngster

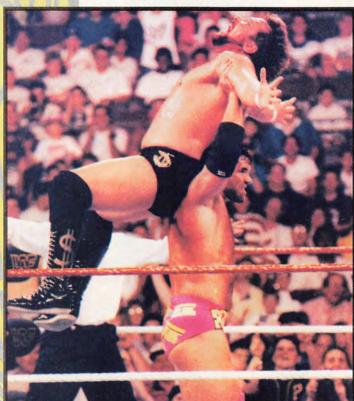
Hall that all eyes and newspaper headlines are trained.

"In all my years in the ring, I never saw a kid with more ability and raw potential," says Hennig's father, Larry. "I thought he had a wonderful future ahead of him."

Hall exploded on the wrestling scene in a manner unlike many before him. "He had so many conflicting talents," remembers Greg Gagne. "He was tall [6'8"] and very strong, but also flexible and quick. He had a natural charisma—people wanted to be around him—but he was also very respectful, almost shy.

"Women loved him, but he was self-effacing, not arrogant. He had natural wrestling ability, but was not too proud to learn. It's like God closed His eyes for a second and gave Scott a little more than most of us."

Hall's talents were quickly utilized. He and Hennig cap-



Razor Ramon began reasserting himself last fall, first beating Ted DiBiase at SummerSlam and soon winning the WWF Intercontinental title. He should be enjoying his championship status, but he rightfully feels a trifle uneasy.

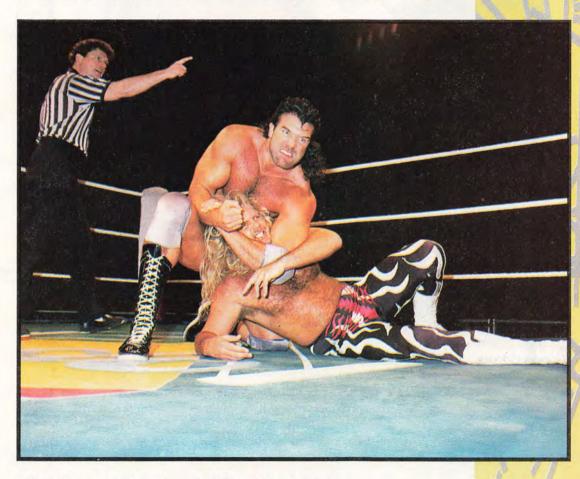
Ramon puts a headlock on Irwin R. Schyster at the 1994 Royal Rumble. Razor knows what it's like to plummet from the heights of stardom, and worries he may suffer the same fate again. tured the tag team title, and it was no secret that promoters were grooming Hall for a run at the World title. Both the WWF and NWA bid for his talents. He was on top of the world and handling it when ...

"It's hard to say what happened exactly," says Larry Hennig. "It was just that things slowly started going wrong. And then they picked up speed in the same direction."

Suddenly he and Hennig lost their belts to the unlikely tandem of Doug Somers and Buddy Rose. With the title night in a high school gymnasium in Nebraska," Hennig recalled. "He was astounding, better than ever. He was a hard guy to figure out."

And even a harder guy to keep track of. Hall eventually went to WCW as The Diamond Studd, managed by "Diamond" Dallas Page. After a solid start, his career began to fizzle, and he soon left the federation without going above mid-card status.

His subsequent transformation to Razor Ramon has evoked as many theories as IFK's assassination. Hennig has



As The Diamond Studd in WCW, Ramon started strongly, dominating the likes of Michael "P.S." Hayes. But his fortunes started changing, and he soon left the federation.

defeat came a debilitating loss of self-confidence.

"He changed overnight," recalls Gagne. "Almost completely. I've never seen anything like it in all my years in the ring. He wasn't the same. He became more withdrawn, less assured. I told him any wrestler has his ups and downs and that he had to ride it out. I don't think he believed me."

For years, Hall bounced around the wrestling circuit. Occasionally, there were sparks. "I saw him wrestle one

his own theory.

"He needed to regain his confidence," he says. "He needed to reinvent himself in a form that encouraged arrogance and machismo." In addition, Hall/Studd visited Puerto Rico about this time, and perhaps its culture and spirit provided inspiration.

Whatever the reason, Ramon has proven himself a worthy heir to Scott Hall's legacy and legend. He has staunchly defended the prestigious I-C

(Continued on page 60)



His legal problems now behind him, Jerry Lawler can now relax for the first time in months. The Memphis monarch salutes his fans for standing by him during his predicament.

Jerry Lawler

THE NIGHTMARE FOR Jerry Lawler began in November, when he was accused of rape and sodomy involving a 14-year-old girl in Louisville, Kentucky. A Jefferson County Grand Jury accused the Memphis-based wrestler with three counts of second-degree sodomy, one count of second-degree rape, and one count of harassing a witness.

The ordeal ended on February 23, when the sodomy and rape charges were dropped. Lawler received two years of unsupervised probation after pleading guilty to one count of harassing a witness, a misdemeanor.

In between, Lawler faced three months of false accusations, bad publicity, and the ultimate threat to his wrestling career, not to mention a maximum 41 years in prison if convicted of all charges. Fortunately for "The King," the young girl and her mother issued a statement saying the alleged incident never happened.

Here's what did happen: Two 14-year-old girls told Louisville police they had sex with Lawler on two occasions— June 6 and July 7, 1993. Both of the girls were wrestling fans who regularly attended USWA cards at Louisville Gardens. The girls later recanted the story in a signed affidavit obtained by Lawler's attorneys, then pleaded with Jefferson Circuit Judge Earl O'Bannon to dismiss the charges.

The girl listed as the victim said she made up the story after her sister's former boyfriend became jealous and overprotective.

Although Lawler was exonerated, he suffered public humiliation, months of unnecessary worry, and loss of income because he agreed to temporarily remove himself from WWF cards.

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED Senior Writer Dave Rosenbaum spoke with Lawler in early-March. "He sounded relieved but bitter," Rosenbaum reported. "But who can blame him? Look what he's been through. Recently I saw the movie In The Name Of The Father, where a man convicted of a bombing he didn't commit spends 15 years in jail. The innocent aren't always found not guilty."

DAVE ROSENBAUM: Congratulations. It had to be quite a relief for you.

JERRY LAWLER: It is. Unfortunately, most people, with the exception of the people in Memphis, never got to know any of the actual details, just the stuff that came out in the media, and they made it sound so bad and so negative.

ROSENBAUM: What do you mean by that?

LAWLER: When the publicity came out, it just said Jerry Lawler was charged with rape and sodomy. Most people thought, here's a guy who hid in the bushes and waited for an underage girl to come along, then jumped out and raped her. It sounded horrible. But I think it snowballed just because a prosecutor, a female prosecutor,

"There was never any doubt from people that knew me. There was no difference in the reaction from the fans. If anything, there was even more support because they realized I was being taken advantage of."

saw in this case the opportunity to make a name for herself.

ROSENBAUM: Maybe you can explain what happened, from the beginning.

LAWLER: I was up in New York doing a TV taping for Titan [the WWF] one night back in September and I got a telephone call from a friend of mine who works in the Louisville Police Department. He said, "'King,' do you know anything about the police department investigating you for rape?" I said, "Yeah, sure. What's the punchline?" This guy said he was serious and he heard in the department there's some sort of investigation going on about statutory rape with an underage girl. I said, "That's crazy." The next day I got back

home and I called back to Louisville and checked with my friend. He said it's definitely the truth, there's an investigation. Somebody has made a complaint that you had sex with a 14-year-old girl up there.

ROSENBAUM: So then what did you find out?

find out? LAWLER: Well, the story is that there was a 14-year-old girl that I know very well. She's a big fan of mine, and there's another girl. They're best friends. They've been coming to the matches for four, five years, every Tuesday at Louisville Gardens. Apparently, there was a group of four or five young girls who lived in this particular neighborhood and there was also this one guy who is 27. He used to be this young girl's sister's boyfriend. He started hanging out with this young girl and he was very jealous. He doesn't like wrestling and he hated the fact that these girls go to the matches on Tuesday. So one day he caught this young lady coming out of the house of some guy who lived down the street. He pulled his car out to block her and wouldn't let her leave. He was ranting and raving and accused her of messing around with this guy and accused her of messing around with the wrestlers. The girl

ing, and saying he was going to go to the authorities and have her taken away from her mother. Finally, she said, "Look, if it'll make you happy, I've been messing with the wrestlers, I've been with

said this guy kept her

there swearing, threaten-

Jerry Lawler and these other wrestlers. Does that make you happy? Now I have to go home." That's how this whole thing started.

ROSENBAUM: But it didn't end there. It just snowballed.

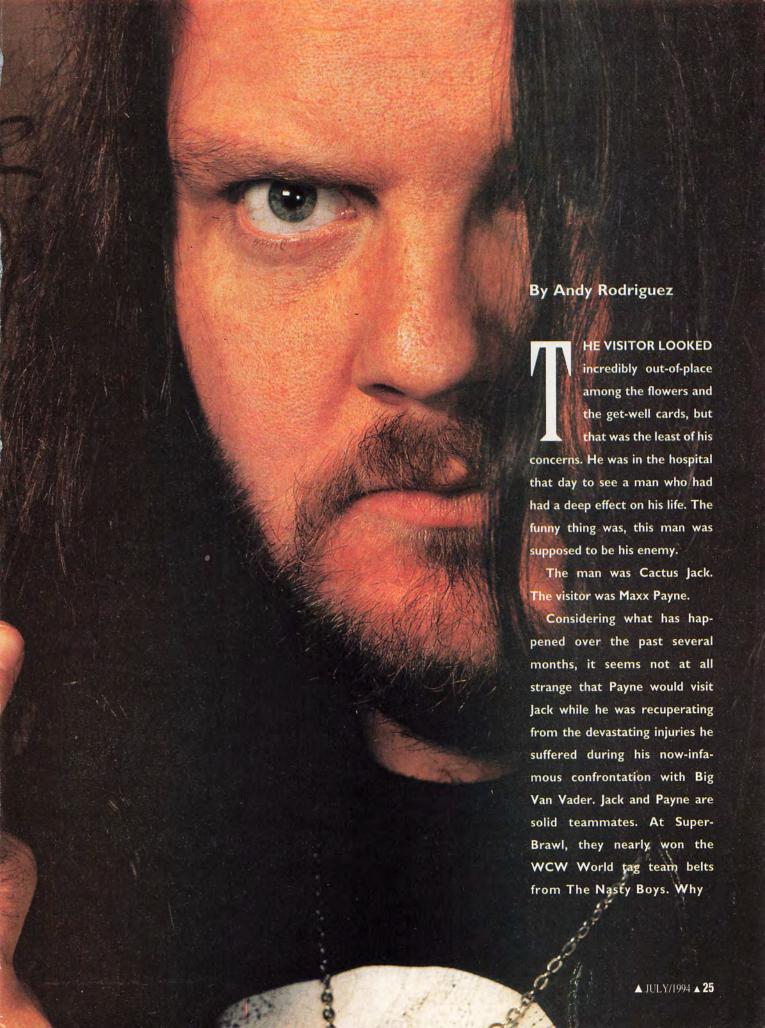
LAWLER: It's amazing how this snowballed. So this guy figures that if he tells her mother, she won't be able to go to wrestling on Tuesday. So he goes and tells her mother, "I confronted her and she admitted to messing around with the

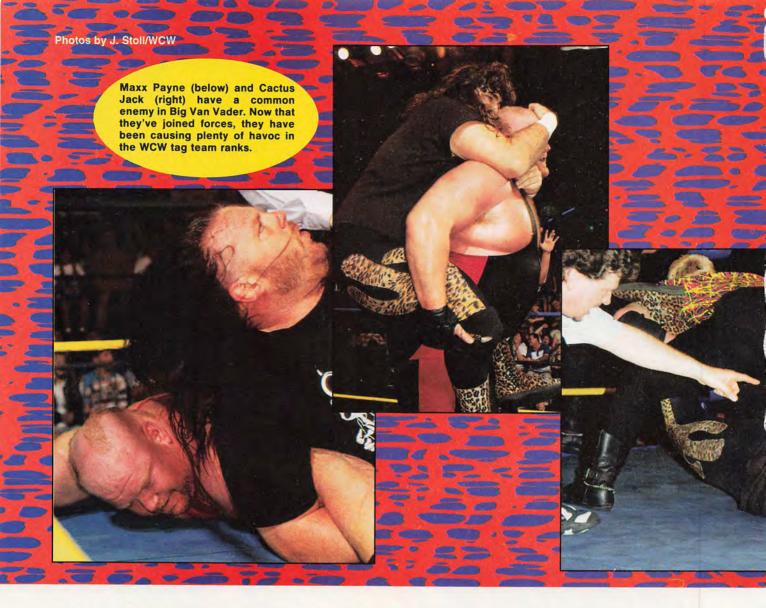
(Continued on page 48)

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The questions will be
demanding. And the
answers will reveal
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thoughts of
the giants of the sport.



CACTUS JACK EXPERIENCES THE HEALING POWER PAYNA





wouldn't Payne stop by to lend comfort?

Back in the spring of 1993, however, Jack and Payne weren't teammates. They weren't even friends. Cactus, despite all his craziness, was one of the most popular men in WCW. Payne, on the other hand, was despised by the majority of fans and fellow competitors. He was too weird, too "out there." He even talked to his guitar. Worst of all, he was sadistically cruel, both in and out of the ring.

But on that quiet spring night, he came to visit Cactus lack.

"Couldn't believe it," Jack would later say. "Absolutely could not believe it. I tell you, old Maxx Payne was the last man I ever expected to see. I was resting when he came in, and when I opened my eyes there he was. We just kind of stared at each other for a few minutes."

Payne continued the story.

"Then I said, 'Jack, you're wondering why I'm here," Payne recalled. "Listen, I may not agree with your philosophy, but I respect you and always have. You're not a man afraid to explore his dark side. I want you to come back from this and keep doing what you're doing."

Jack was stunned. However, what was perhaps most surprising about Payne's appearance was that he was the first wrestler to visit Jack following his injury. At the time, Cactus had allies like Sting and Dustin Rhodes, but it was Payne who arrived first.

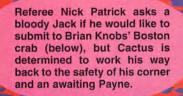
"I never thought much about that," Jack said, "but come to think of it, that is funny, isn't it, that Payne would be the first. After he left that night, I reconsidered my whole attitude about the man. Thought that he couldn't be as evil as we were all making him out

to be. But at the time, who would have believed me?"

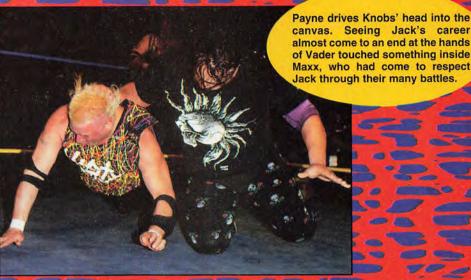
Good point. Payne had shown Jack a previously unseen side of himself, but to the rest of the world Payne was the same sick, cruel wrestler. Of course, Jack was in no condition to spread the world about a "new Payne." After his release from the hospital, he developed a serious case of amnesia and for several months believed he was a sailor.

When Jack recovered and returned to the ring, his first task was to gain revenge against Vader. He said, that while he was on that mission, he never forgot about Payne's visit.

"I'd think about it a lot," he offered. "Wondered if he'd be available if I needed somebody to watch my back. The great thing was that nobody would be surprised, because Payne had shown everybody else what he showed me."







Jack has Knobs doubled over and in perfect position for a boot to the face. Cactus and Maxx blend their unorthodox styles into an extremely dangerous fighting unit. Few would be surprised to see them become World tag team champions sometime in 1994.

encounter, they probably would be the champions.

So the team of Cactus Jack and nea Maxx Payne was born. Immediately, they made a huge impact upon the WCW tag team picture, quickly becoming top contenders to the World tag team title held by The Nasty Boys.

I also had in mind that we could some-

day be a team. So I wasn't at all sur-

prised when I heard from him."

In the process, they even stunned their friends

"Honestly, I didn't think they'd do this well," Sting admitted. "I thought they wouldn't mesh well because they're too much alike. But the fact that Maxx and Jack are alike seems to

be their strength."

That strength has brought them achingly close to glory. At Clash of the Champions in January, they defeated the Nastys to earn a title shot at SuperBrawl. Had it not been for typical Nasty underhandedness during that

For Jack, though, the belts aren't nearly as important as the team.

"I've never wrestled better," he said. "I give Payne all the credit for that. No, he hasn't helped me technically, but he's proved time after time that he'll be there when I need him. Who knows how long we'll be a team. Hey, we may end up feuding. But with Maxx at my side, I believe my comeback is complete. Whatever happens next I'm prepared for."

"All I did," Payne responded, "was help a great competitor bring back what he already had. For a while there, Jack was lost. I helped him find himself. Give me credit for that, but nothing else."

Pain hurts. Payne heals. Try to figure it out.

Cactus Jack has.

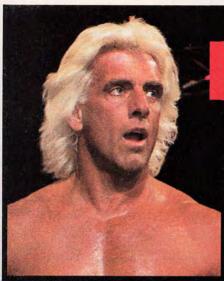
Indeed, Payne had changed. His ring style still was brutal, but he was using that brutality to help those he once harmed. Even Johnny B. Badd, with whom Payne engaged in a vicious feud, became convinced Payne now was a man who could be trusted.

"Maxx is a decent person," said Badd. "A little odd, like me, but decent. He finally realized that it was okay to let his good side shine through."

After his tussles with Vader, Cactus began to think about not only allying with Payne, but forming a partnership with him.

"It made nothing but sense," Jack said. "Back when I was hurt, Maxx showed a lot of faith in me. I figured now it was time to return the favor."

"I knew Jack would call eventually," Payne recalled. "It was meant for us to be teammates. When I paid him that visit, I did it out of a real concern, but



Flair Analyzes Regal

Wew World champion

Bic Fiair got a first-hand

leason of TV champion

Lord Steven Begal's

vast ring skills.

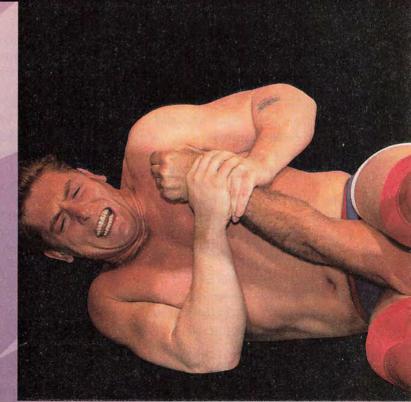
Yet Fiair believes Begal

still has a lot to learn

about the other aspects

of wrestling





By Chris Bernucca

HE ONLY THING Ric Flair does better than wrestle is talk. Throughout his illustrious career, whether or not he was wearing a championship belt, Flair has never reliniquished the unofficial title of wrestling's best interview. While some

superstars have cowered from the attention, Flair has craved it. The "Nature Boy" still thrives on the throng of reporters, and he has never met a camera he hasn't seduced.

So it came as no surprise when Flair met the media following the last of a series of matches with WCW TV champion Lord Steven Regal that the WCW World champion had plenty to say. For a change, however, Flair was more interested in talking about his opponent rather than himself.

Flair and Regal did battle in a series of matches contested under "Marquis Of Queensberry" rules. No, they did not box. This was an unofficial title given to the bouts, which had a unique format rarely seen in contemporary wrestling.

The matches were five minutes in length, with activity and advancement limited entirely to technical grappling. And neither man's title was on the line, allowing both Flair and Regal to let it all hang out. The decisions were to be rendered by a panel of judges, much like a boxing match.

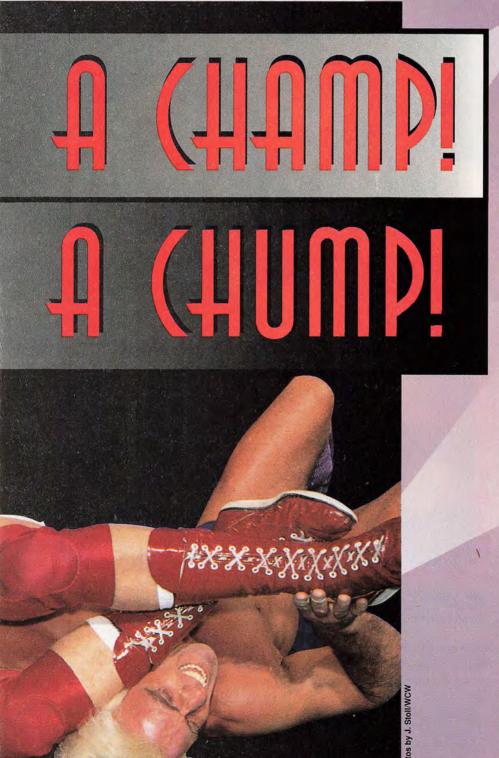
Afterward, Flair retained his gift of gab, while Regal further distanced himself from the hearts of WCW fans.

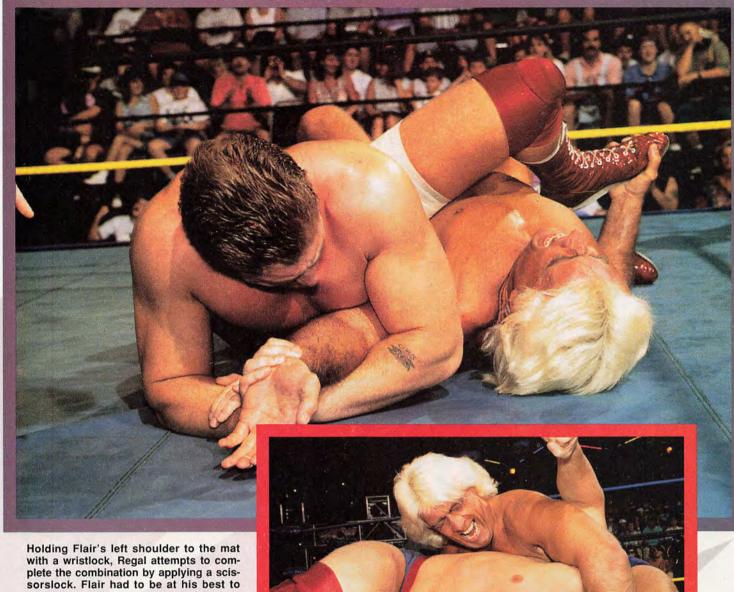
"Steve Regal is a fine wrestler," Flair began. "I think he proved that tonight. He has excellent scientific skills. In fact, he reminds me of a younger version of me."

The press corps broke on that one. When the laughter stopped, one reporter asked Flair for an evaluation of Regal's ring skills.

"Well, he doesn't allow himself to get into much trouble," Flair said. "His technical skills let him get out of some hairy situations, because he has good countermoves. Most wrestlers have a good offensive repertoire, but Regal has good offense and good defense. He can beat you, or he can get you into a situation where you end up beating yourself, like he did tonight.

"He appears to have good conditioning. I know you guys think that anyone can wrestle for five minutes, and in a regular match, you're right. If you can't last five minutes, you're in the wrong sport. But in a match like this, where





counter the brilliant British technician.

you have to use the entire five minutes to impress the judges, there is no down time. You can't walk around the ring, stalking each other. There's no feelingout process. You have to get right down to it."

Flair smiled in admiration of the international veteran.

"It's easy to see why he's been TV champion for so long. He has skills that not a lot of today's wrestlers have. As a result, most of his opponents are at a disadvantage as soon as they enter the ring. He certainly has the ability needed to become a champion. But ..."

The reporters quickly looked at each other, then checked to make sure their tape recorders were running. The "but" that came from Flair indicated that

Flair showed off some of his offensive skills as well, pressuring Regal's shoulder. The "Nature Boy" applauded his opponent's technical ability, saying "he reminds me of a younger version of me."

there were juicy quotes behind it, and no one wanted to miss them. The interview champion was about to defend his title.

"I don't understand the snobbery, the way he looks down at his foes, as if they're inferior to him. He calls most of us 'commoners.' I don't know where

he comes from, but here in the United States, there's nothing common about all my world titles. There's a certain amount of respect that comes with that, and I didn't see that from him at all in either of our matches. He's got a bad attitude."

Flair was asked about the respect he

shows his opponents and launched into another short sermon.

"What I say about an opponent in an interview and how I feel about him in the ring are two different things," Flair explained. "It would be real easy for me to badmouth Vader after beating him at Starrcade, but the guy can wrestle. He knows it and I know it. Regal can wrestle, too. But I could get started right now about how he'll never be more than a TV champion, and who is he to think he can get in the ring with Ric Flair, and all that. But what good would it do? Let's just get in the ring and see what you got, and whoever wins, well, more power to 'em.

"But for Regal, it's more than that. He's got some bug up his butt about embarrassing his opponents. He needs more than a victory to be satisfied. At the end of my match with Vader, I looked like hell. But I had the belt, and that's all that matters. I don't think Regal is aware of that. He has an attitude you usually find in career losers. You know, blowhards. Chumps."

That was enough for the reporters. It was off to Regal's dressing room, where the TV champion was asked if he agreed with Flair's assessment. Regal was obviously far less at ease with the media attention, but still spoke his mind.

"Ric Flair is only half-right in his assessment," Regal said. "My ring ability has come through hard work and a dedication to my craft, something you Americans are sorely lacking. I'm not

a clear advantage.

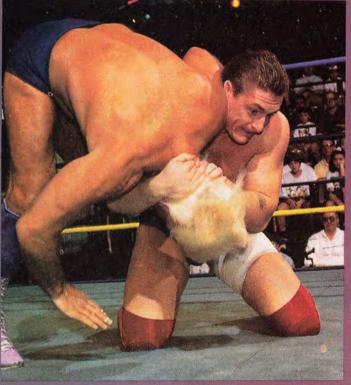
surprised that Flair spoke highly of my skills. Any other description would border on blasphemy or treason.

"But you say he speaks of respect, to which I say, what is there to respect about Ric Flair? Each of us was able to beat each other. In that regard, he is no better than I. Perhaps, given his common bloodlines, he is a tad worse. He may talk of titles, but the title of lord carries far more weight than any of his tacky belts."

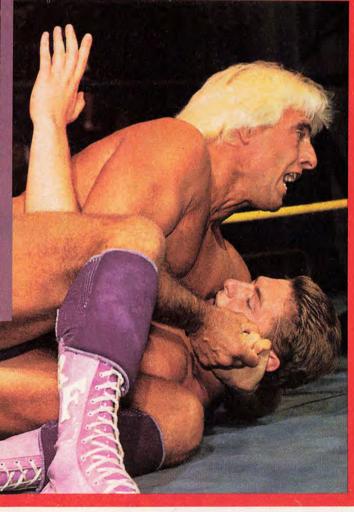
Regal was asked about his attitude.

"It is the attitude of American wrestlers that should be in question," he said. "My attitude will be the standard by which all wrestlers are measured well into the next millenium. By that time, Ric Flair and his commonry will be nothing more than a memory."

Applying a headlock on Regal, Flair has time to contemplate his next move. The series of scientific matches between WCW's World and TV champions ended with neither wrestler establishing



Regal executes a snapmare agaist Flair, but instead of following up the move, he merely congratulated himself. Considering how much more accomplished a career Flair has had, it is amazing Regal did not show him more respect.





YOKOZUNAS SECRET WORKOUT

Beneath Yokozuna's massive body is a great deal of muscle. The 550-pouund sumo star regularly lifts weights at The Wild Samoans Training Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

When you think of Yokozuna, what comes to mind? Fat man? No real wrestling skills?

Well, that common assessment deeply bothers the wrestler and his trainers.

So much so that they went to the trouble of photographing the giant Samoan in a grueling training session

Won't Believe It!

By V.J. Paterno

HE PACKAGE APPEARED unassuming. No return address, simply postage on the large envelope. Some photos were enclosed, but they were sent face down. Nor was there an accompanying note.

But inside was big news. Of course, most everything concerning the 550-pound Yokozuna can be described as big.

These pictures featured the massive Samoan in a gymnasium, pummeling an anonymous, luckless rival. When Yokozuna wasn't doing that, he was working out with weights (and we don't mean a pound of lobster fried rice, either).

"That's Afa's gym," said Senior Editor Bill Apter. recognizing The Wild Samoans Training Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania. It made sense; Afa was in the photos, as was Mr. Fuji. But where was lim Cornette, Yokozuna's business manager and another key part of the entourage? Hmmm, the postmark on the envelope was Knoxville, Tennessee ...

"Take pictures? I've long since developed past that stage, pardon the pun," Cornette insisted over the phone. "Yes, I started

> my wrestling career as a photographer for Apter, but that was long ago. Look where I am now-the dominant figure in wrestling-and look where he is now. Why would I want to regress?"

Afa, Yokozuna's trainer, wouldn't say who took the pictures or why they were sent. "It's not relevant now. The important thing is it shows that those people who only perceive Yokozuna as a big, immobile guy with no athletic skills are wrong! The man is an athlete.

"You must also admit that these pictures are very intimidating. Anyone who's about to challenge Yokozuna might see them and become a little less confident."

The person on the receiving end of Yokozuna's punishment was Samoans student J.S. Storm, who said his contract with Afa prevented him from disclosing the

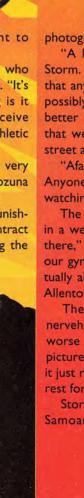
"A learning experience? You better believe it," said Storm. "The great thing about sparring against Yokozuna is that anything else I go through in my wrestling career can't possibly be as demanding. I can vouch that Yokozuna is a better athlete than people realize. He's not just weight. If that were so, any 500-pound guy could be picked off the street and be immediately turned into a world champion.

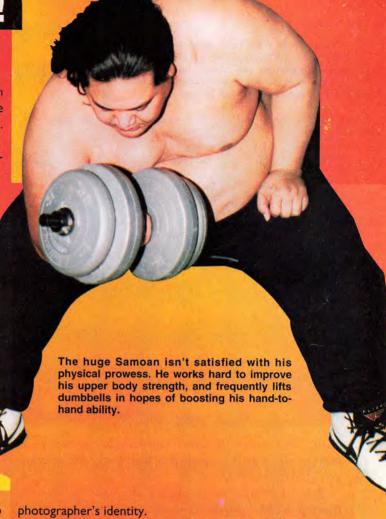
"Afa's a smart instructor, and Yokozuna's a good listener. Anyone who has questioned his title reign wouldn't after watching him work out."

The first group of pictures show a determined Yokozuna in a weight room, lifting barbells. "He spends a lot of time there," Afa said, "perhaps more than any wrestler who uses our gym." And that's a substantial compliment, because virtually all the pro stars use Afa's facility when they're in the Allentown area.

Then Afa and Fuji went to work. "They put me in a nervehold, and boy did it hurt," Storm said. "What made it worse is that we did it seven times or so, strictly for the pictures. The photographer wanted to make certain we had it just right. After that, I had to put liniment on my neck and rest for about 15 minutes!"

Storm also had to survive a chokehold from the massive Samoan. "Fuji and Afa were very particular about this







"This is how it's done," says Afa as he approves of Yokozuna's nervehold on sparring partner J.S. Storm (below). Mr. Fuji also is pleased. Meanwhile, Storm really doesn't have much to say!



move," he recalled. "If applied correctly, it can do a lot of damage, but it must be applied in such a way that it is hidden from the referee."

But Yokozuna's worst torture was inflicted by-you

guessed it—his legdrop. "This is Yokozuna's favorite move. He loves perfecting it. I guess if I were his size, I'd love it, too," said Storm. "It was tough just laying there."

What does a sparring partner think about when he knows a devastating move is forthcoming?

"Anything but wrestling," Storm joked. "No, actually I try to put myself in Yokozuna's situation, see what he's trying to do. Perhaps there's something I can adapt to my size, my situation, further on up the road. Anyway, by the time we were finished, I was bruised and battered."

Afa saluted Storm for his endurance. "He was the perfect sparring partner for Yokozuna. He did everything we asked him to. Anyone who can take that much punishment must have something going for him. I am certain he will

Yokozuna's effort intensifies as he applies a chokehold on Storm (above). Illegal moves are easy to apply; the key is to hide them from the referee, and Yoko couldn't have better teachers in that regard than Afa and Fuji.

have an excellent career."

How did the workouts help Yokozuna?

"Earlier, we talked about how the public views Yokozuna," Afa said. "Sometimes, those comments are printed in a magazine or get back to him in another manner, and they hurt him. For all that size of his, Yokozuna is still kind of sensitive.

"When he sees these pictures in a photo album, it'll boost his self-confidence, make him realize he's a quality wrestler and a deserving champion. Wrestling is as mental

as it is physical, you know."

So, mystery photographer, you've done your job. Thanks to your photo skills (and our decision to print them), you've shown the public a side of Yokozuna many probably never thought existed.



Storm must lie absolutely still as Yokozuna takes a running start (above) to execute a flying legdrop (right). There are some jobs almost no one will touch, and being Yokozuna's sparring partner is one of them! Storm is a very courageous man.



close-up:

REAL STEAMSON

RICK "THE DRAGON" Steamboat is now in his 40s, but remains among wrestling's elite and doesn't plan on leaving any time soon ... Born in Hawaii on February 28, 1953 ... His family moved to St. Petersburg, Florida, when he was five ... While waiting to enter gym instructor's school, Rick was watching ABC's Wide World Of Sports and saw an interview with former Olympian and pro Chris Taylor ... His interest sparked, Steamboat began training at Verne Gagne's camp in Minnesota ... Graduated after five months and made his pro debut on February 15, 1976, beating Scott Irwin in Minneapolis ... Wrestled briefly in the AWA, then moved on to the Georgia area and feuded with Baron Von Raschke ... Moved to the Mid-Atlantic area in 1977, where he was hailed for his scientific ability ... Began a feud that would continue on and off for many years when he beat Ric Flair for the Mid-Atlantic TV title ... Was voted Rookie of the Year by

this chain of magazines in 1977 ... Defeated Flair again for the U.S. title in early-1979 ... The two became friends and challenged for the NWA World tag team title ... Won the Mid-Atlantic title from The Iron Sheik in late-1980 ... Also won the NWA World tag team title with Jay Youngblood before losing the belts to Jimmy Snuka and Ray Stevens ... Lost the Mid-Atlantic title to Ivan Koloff in 1981 and regained it six months later ... Dropped it again to Roddy Piper ... In 1983, Steamboat teamed with Youngblood to win the NWA World tag title three different times ... Retired to end third reign so he could devote his time to managing a gym in Charlotte, North Carolina ... Returned several months later and beat Dick Slater for the U.S. title ... Entered the WWF in 1985, emphasizing martial arts maneuvers

rather than straight scientific wrestling ... In 1986.

he began a violent feud with Intercontinental champion Randy Savage ... In one match, Savage smashed Rick in the throat twice. once on the ring railing and once with the timekeeper's bell... Was out for several months ... Returned and beat Savage for the I-C title at WrestleMania III ... It was voted 1987's Match of the Year in PWI, a tremendous feat considering Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan was the main event on the card ... Subsequently suffered a stunning loss to The Honky Tonk Man ... Again retired to spend time with wife Bonnie, as they awaited the birth of their first child, Ricky ... Wrestled sporadically, again announcing his retirement after losing to Greg Valentine in the first round of the WrestleMania IV WWF World title tournament ... Resurfaced eight months later in NWA as Eddie Gilbert's mystery partner against Flair and Barry Windham ... Gilbert and Steamboat won when Steamboat pinned Flair after a flying bodypress ... Began an incredible series of matches against Flair by winning the NWA World title in Chicago on February 20, 1989 ... Beat Flair in a memorable best-of-three-falls match at Clash of the Champions VI ... Lost the belt to

Flair at Wrestle War '89 on May 7 ... Feuded with Lex Luger, who attacked him during Clash VII ... The highlight of their feud was a match at the Great American Bash, where Luger beat Steamboat by disqualification ... Left WCW days later and reentered the WWF in March 1991, wearing a dragon costume and blowing fire before every match ... Steamboat's flying bodypress gave his team a victory over The Warlord and Power & Glory at SummerSlam '91 ... Feuded with Skinner ... Left the WWF again in October after a reported dispute with federation officials about future match assignments ... Appeared without prior billing at WCW's Clash of the Champions XVII on November 19 and teamed with Dustin Rhodes to beat The Enforcers for the World tag team title ... It was the first time Steamboat and Rhodes teamed ... Steamboat replaced Barry Windham, who had pulled out of the match with a fractured right wrist ... On January 16,

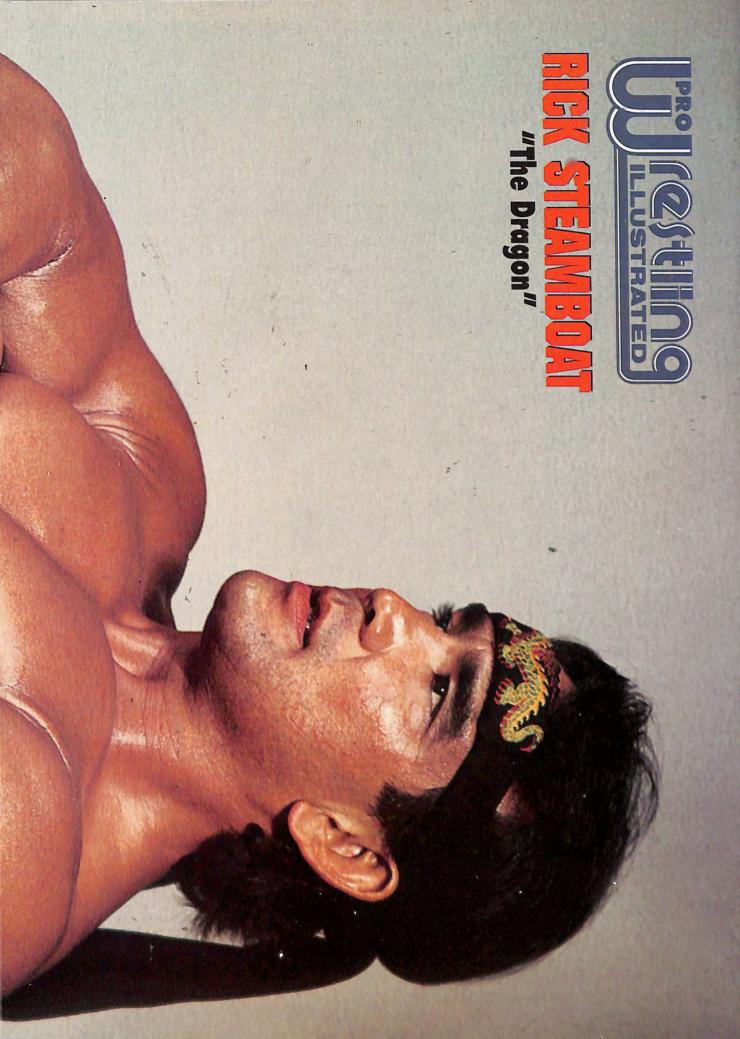
1992, Steamboat and Rhodes lost the belts to The Enforcers in a best-of-three-falls match ... Teamed with Sting to begt

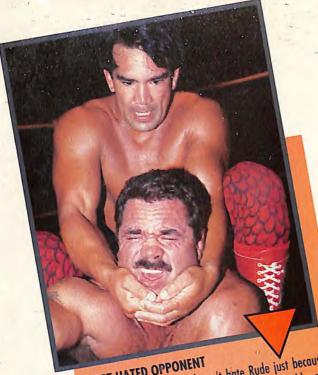
match ... Teamed with Sting to beat Rick Rude and Steve Austin at Clash of the Champions XVIII ... An enraged Rude delivered two jarring "Rude awakening" neckbreakers to Steamboat and whipped him repeatedly with Paul E. Dangerously's belt ... Unsuccessfully pursued Rude's title in a violent feud ... Steamboat, Sting, Rhodes, Nikita Koloff. and Windham defeated Austin, Rude, Arn Anderson, Larry Zbyszko, and Bobby Eaton in War Games at Wrestle War '92 ... Defeated Rude in the Ironman Challenge non-title match at Blach Blast '92 ... Was attacked by Cactus Jack during a postmatch interview ...

Defeated Steve Austin for the WCW TV title at Clash of the Champions XX on September 2,

1992 ... Lost the belt to Scott Steiner in an outstanding scientific match on September 29 ... Pinned Brian Pillman in another memorable scientific bout at Halloween Havoc '92 ... Teamed with Shane Douglas to beat Rhodes and Windham for the World and NWA tag team titles at Clash of the Champions XXI ... Windham attacked Douglas and Steamboat afterward ... The champs were again attacked by Pillman and Austin after a title defense on January 13, 1993 ... Pillman and Austin finally won the belts on March 2, 1993 ... Lost to Windham, the NWA champion, on April 14 in WCW's first appearance at Madison Square Garden's Paramount ... Steamboat and Douglas masqueraded as Dos Hombres in several matches against Austin and Pillman ... Shortly afterward, Douglas left WCW ... Won TV title from Paul Orndorff at Clash of the Champions XXIV ... Lost it to Lord Steven Regal in controversial fashion on September 19, 1993, in Houston ... Nearly regained belt from Regal at Starrcade '93, but his leap from the top rope missed the mark with seconds remaining in the 15-minute time limit.

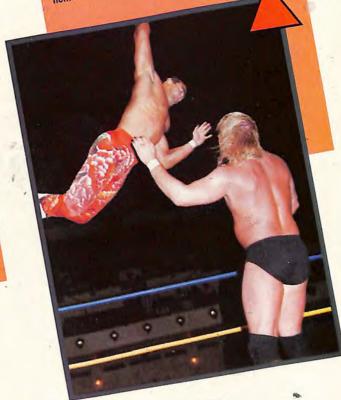


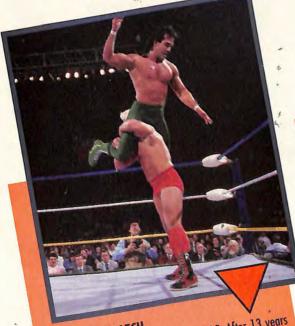




Rick Rude. Steamboat doesn't hate Rude just because MOST HATED OPPONENT the "Ravishing One" rocked his world with two neckbreakers and broke his nose. Nor does he hate him because of a violent, frustrating feud in 1992. Steamboat hates Rude because the men are so different. Steamboat is humble, Rude is boastful. These opposites don't attract,

Flying bodypress. Like ballet, Steamboat's trademark FAVORITE MANEUVER maneuver is best watched in slow motion. Watch as "The Dragon" leaps off of the top rope with arms and legs extended. It is a thing of beauty as Steamboat soars through the air, perfectly balanced, and strikes his opponent with the full force of his chest. Give him a 10!

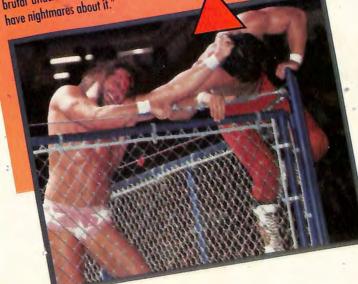




GREATEST MATCH

Vs. Ric Flair, February 20, 1989. After 13 years of dreaming what it would be like to be a world champion, Steamboat's career reached its apex when he beat his long-time rival for the NWA World title in Chicago. Although there were other great matches in this classy feud, Steamboat will never forget the night he firmly established himself as one of wrestling's alltime greats.

Randy Savage. Vicious. Unpredictable. Dirty. All these TOUGHEST OPPONENT words can describe the "Macho Man" when he feuded with Steamboat in 1986 and '87. Steamboat was sidelined for several months after Savage smashed him twice in the throat, once with the timekeeper's bell. "It was the most brutal attack of my career," Steamboat recalled. "I still have nightmares about it."



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THEY CHANTED: "500! 500!" A Court Of The Listing Of The Top 500 Wrestle

The Garbage Man was just another wrestler ... until PWI ranked him 500th in the "PWI 500." When he finally got a bigtime match to go with his big-time rating, his loyal fans were ready. He did not disappoint them

By Andy Rodriguez

VERYBODY TALKS trash. In sports, if you don't talk trash nowadays, you aren't playing the game right. At least, that's what the trash-talkers say.

The Garbage Man does more than talk trash. He picks it up and hauls it away. When he isn't throwing punches and dropkicks, he's filling dumpsters with coffee Sanitation engineer's uniform (hopefully)

Pressed) ... Great trash talker, of couppressed) ... Great trash talker, of couppressed) ... Great trash talker, of couppressed ... Couppressed ... Coupparities Engide coupparities ... Engide ... Coupparities ... Engide pressed) ... Oreal trash taket, of ethe performs janitorial duties. Someone has to anchor the annual "PWI 500" survey, and this year it was the Floridabased Garbage Man. The ranking turned out to be a major break in his career, as he got a WWF tryout and defeated Reno

Riggins.

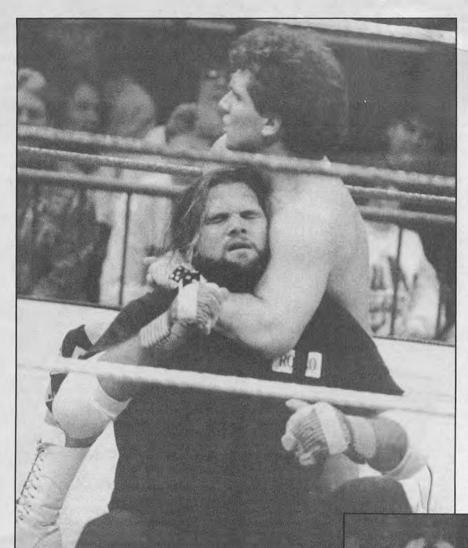
Can hardly move a lick, but PWF

GARBAGE MAN (65". 500. That's right, he insists on wre

e wrestlers eat s love him.

> 6, NL) ing in a

Chicago or guarantees,



Garbage Man proved he could take punishment, as Riggins has one of the better rear chinlocks around (above). Seconds after this photo was taken, GM was back on his feet and in command (right).

grinds and banana peels.

There's a good chance, though, his garbage-collecting days outside the ring are over. After a successful debut in the WWF, Garbage Man may be ready to trade in his garbage truck for something a little more stylish.

Garbage Man has worked hard to get himself into this position. But he has to give us some of the credit.

In our latest annual "PWI 500" list announced last fall, Garbage Man received a very dubious honor. He was ranked dead last. Five hundred out of 500.

"I kind of felt like the last man selected in the NFL draft," Garbage Man recalled. "I mean, I was happy. Really glad to get the recognition. But, you know, who wants to be last? I had mixed feelings."

At 6'6" and 306 pounds, the eight-year pro (who has also gone by the name Rocco Gibralta) has been a fixture on the Florida independent scene for several years.

Like most indy competitors, he had dreamed of getting a shot with one of the big federations. He recognized that his inclusion in the "500" had the potential to be his big break.

"I had heard that the WWF was going to be in Florida," said Garbage Man, "and I was determined to meet with their talent scouts. I wanted them to see that PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED had recognized me, that I was on the map.

"Well, I did meet a scout. We talked for a little while and I gave him a videotape of me wrestling. I guess he liked what he saw, because a week later they called me back and offered me a match."

So the trash collector who bills himself from Mt. Trashmore, Florida (the actual name of a dump in the town of Homestead), traveled north to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to take on Reno Riggins. While Riggins wasn't even rated among the top 500, he is a respected veteran, and Garbage Man prepared seriously for the challenge.

"Who am I to take anybody light-



Garbage Man applies an armbar on Riggins. Hearing the fans at a TV taping in Pennsylvania chant "500! 500!" gave him extra incentive, and he later said the support helped him conquer his veteran opponent.

ly?" he offered. "I didn't know much about Riggins, but I figured that if he was good enough to compete in the WWF, he must be a damned good wrestler."

Garbage Man was ready for a

ZEUS AND MORGUS: THEY ALSO ANCHORED

500 in the annual PWI survey. The world, where he's in constant other two have done well in their demand. own right.

(the name's a contradiction-he's 234-pound Morgus "a strait-jacket-6'10" and 343 pounds) is a perfect ed, raving loon," saying he had litexample of life imitating art. Well, the skill. But give the guy credit. almost. The towering character While he's still accompanied by a actor played Hulk Hogan's antago- doctor and nurse each time he nist Zeus in the "Hulkster's" initial enters the ring, his wrestling skills starring vehicle-1989's No Holds have dramatically improved. Barred-and decided to take the wrestling skills he learned for film to 184th in the 1993 "PWI 500," into real life. To put it kindly, it based on his showing in East didn't work.

inary competition, Zeus couldn't Eastern Wrestling Federation last cut it against the WWF's elite. He November.

arbage Man was the third wrestled for a little longer, then Gwrestler to be ranked at No. retreated back into the acting

1992: Morgus the Maniac. The 1991: Zeus. Actor Tiny Lister 1992 "PWI 500" called the 6'3",

Want proof? Morgus rocketed up Coast independent federations. He While he was able to beat prelim- even won the title in the Midfight. But he wasn't ready for the reception he was about to receive.

In basketball, it is common for fans of a team to take a special interest in that team's "12th man." He rarely plays, and when he does get in the game it's because his team is either winning or losing by a wide margin.

But although he makes a small contribution, he gets big cheers. When the coach sends him into the game, the fans cheer wildly. If he scores, the applause grows even louder.

Attending Garbage Man's WWF debut was a group of fans who had similarly "adopted" him. They wanted to show their support for No. 500.

"A lot of people look at Garbage Man and say he must be a bum if he's ranked so low," said Gabriel Mendoza of Allentown, Pennsylvania. "But look at all the wrestlers who didn't make the list. This is the first time I've seen Garbage Man wrestle and I want him to know that a lot of us think he's all right and that he definitely deserves to be here."

As Garbage Man made his way to the ring, Mendoza and his friends began chanting "500! 500!" Soon the people around them picked up the chant. There were hundreds of fans shouting Garbage Man's number, but at first, he said, he didn't realize what was happening.

"I heard them and I thought it was weird they were chanting the number 500," he said. "Then I said to myself, 'Hey, you idiot! They're talking about you! It's the *PWI* thing.' I thought it was pretty amazing. It definitely got me pumped up."

Spurred on by this surprising support, Garbage Man defeated Riggins to make his WWF debut a successful one. Moments after his hand was raised in victory, the chant of "500!" picked up again. This time, Garbage Man knew what it meant right away.

"That was like sweet music," he recalled. "I'd waited so long for that moment and to have the fans in my corner meant a lot. I haven't always cared what the fans thought, but that night I sure did."

There's a good chance Garbage Man will experience a lot more moments like that one. This spring he anticipated competing in the WWF full-time. That should spell the end to his days as a trash col-

lector, a possibility that he welcomes, of course.

"The guys always kid me about not giving up my day job," Garbage Man said. "But I'm really not going to stop dealing with garbage. There's a lot of garbage in the WWF, a lot of guys who should be thrown right out of the federation. I can't wait to get my hands on them."

Garbage Man naturally is eager to get started, but dozens of WWF newcomers with similar potential never go nearly as far as they wish. He says he

never go nearly in a major federation. There is a possibility he may join the as far as they WWF on a full-time basis. Goodbye, sanitation!

also is prepared to be disappointed.

"Hey, whatever happens, I've already made my mark," he said. "I made it to the big time in my sport. Not too many guys have been able to do that."

Puts a whole new perspective on being 500th. Maybe next year, wrestlers will be asking us to rank them at the bottom.

П

Okay, maybe not.

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READ	
CODE	ARTIST

2661 Bon Jovi

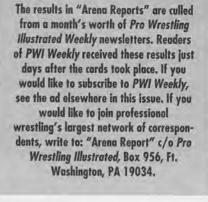
CODE	ARTIST		
8361	10,000 Maniacs	2692	Boyz II Men
2542		2691	David Bowie
2231	AC/DC	2262	C & C Music
2321	Bryan Adams		Factory
2371	Aerosmith	2761	Crosby, Stills & Nash
2522	Al B. Sure!	3251	Da Lench Mob
2541	Alice in Chains	3265	Damian Dame
2681	Anthrax	3261	Damn Yankees
2527	B-52's	3262	Danger Danger
2322	Beastie Boys	3331	Def Leppard
2323	The Beatles	3353	Del Amitri
2381	Beverly Hills 90210	3472	Dire Straits
1431	Ian Ziering	3211	Eazy E
3641	Shannen Doherty	3682	En Vogue
4273	Jennie Garth	3761	EPMD
4732	Brian Austin Green	3781	Gloria Estefan
7741	Jason Priestly	3981	Extreme
7371	Luke Perry	3272	Faster Pussycat
2523	Black Crowes	3471	Firehouse
2524	Black Sabbath		Peter Gabriel
2528		4362	
2543		4381	Geto Boyz
2651	Michael Bolton	4721	Grateful Dead
2662	Bonham	4861	Guns N Roses
2764	Garth Brooks	4261	
2271	Mariah Carey	4274	
2525	Eric Clapton	4682	
2653	Phil Collins	4681	
2871		4231	Ice Cube
2972	Billy Ray Cyrus	4232	Ice-T

4611 INXS

5222 Janet	Jackson	7742	Prince
	el Jackson	7743	Prince Markie Dee
5631 Jodeci		1832	Queensryche
5632 Billy Jo		7265	The Ramones
5641 Elton J	200000	7333	Redman
5832 Wynor	nna Judd	7363	R.E.M.
5472 KISS	1000	7332	R.H. Chili Peppers
5741 Kris Kr		7651	Rolling Stones
6771 KRS-C	ne	7871	Rush
5332 Led Ze		7251	Salt N Pepa
5962 Lynch	Mob	7541	Skid Row
6231 Madon	ina	7523	Slaughter
6252 Mitch I	Malloy	7643	The Smithereens
	Mark & the	7682	Soundgarden
	Bunch	7683	Soup Dragons
6241 Megad		7746	Spin Doctors
6382 Metalli		7771	Bruce Springsteen
	e Michael	7842	Sting
6682 Motley		7931	Mathew Sweet
6721 Mr. Big		8371	Tesla
6352 Nelson	1	8431	They Might Be Giants
6461 Nine Ir	nch Nails	8521	TLC
6471 Nirvan		8721	Randy Travis
I PARCETOCOPIONI DE SUIDANTE	O'Connor	8221	U2
	Osbourne	8451	Ugly Kid Joe
7263 Panter			Van Halen
7321 Pearl	- CWCD		Suzanne Vega
7381 Tom P		9463	The Who
	Phillips		Vanessa Williams
7462 Pink F		9682	
7641 Poisor		1181	ZZ Top

PLUS ...OVER 250 MORE! (If the Band you're looking for is not listed here, just press or say the numbers on your phone that contain the first three letters of the band, or artist's last name (i.e. <u>GUN</u>s n Roses = 486, Gloria <u>EST</u>efan = 378).







UNITED STATES

FLORIDA

TAMPA—World Wrestling Alliance at the Sportatorium: The Stinger beat The Hit Man ... "Jammin" Johnny and The White Shadow battled to a double-countout ... In the semifinals of a tag team tournament, Armed Forces defeated The Executioners ... In a first-blood match, Lou Perez beat The Cuban Assassin ... Freight Train Freddy defeated "Nasty" Ned Brady by disqualification ... In a non-title match, The Gravedigger beat heavyweight champion Bill Pain by disqualification ... In a taped-fist match, The Zebra Kid and Chris Nelson fought to a double-countout ... The White Shadow & The Ayala Brothers defeated The Mechanic, The Attitude Adjuster, & Butch Long. (02-25-94)

-Shannon Rose

TAMPA—Florida Wrestling Alliance at Crossovers: Surgeon General II defeated Ray Ayala ... Light heavyweight champion Manny Fernandez (not the original) beat The White Shadow ... The Viper (managed by The G-Man) defeated Haystacks Calhoun Jr. by disqualification ... In a bunkhouse, falls-count-anywhere match, Frankie Rose pinned "Bad Boy" Jeff Bradley ... Tag team champions The Dynamite Express beat The Southern Posse by disqualification after manager Sir Ronald J. Niemi IV interfered. (02-21-94)

-Shannon Rose

PLANT CITY—Plant City Wrestling Federation at the Plant City Auction: The Hitman (managed by The Illustrious One) defeated The Beast Master ... "Nasty" Ned Brady & Cuban Assassin (with Fantasy) beat Freight Train Freddy & Randy Fuller by disqualification ... John B. Law pinned Sensuous Lee ... Big V beat Jerry "Lightning" Flynn ... In a grudge match, The Latin Express defeated The Southern Posse ... In an "I quit" match between referees, "Gentleman" Jim Bragg and The Unknown Referee (managed by The Illustrious One) battled to a double-countout ... Ring announcer Kevin Kelly beat Sir Ronald

J. Niemi IV when The Illustrious One's interference backfired. A prematch stipulation forced Illustrious to wear a diaper in the ring. (02-17-94)

-Shannon Rose

TAMPA—IPWA at the Sportatorium: The Gazer defeated The Galaxian ... Surgeon General beat A.J. Andrews ... Jeff Bradley defeated Freight Train Freddy ... Vern Henderson beat Bill Pain ... Cuban Assassin defeated Randy Fuller ... Lou Perez & Rico Federico beat tag team champions Rick Thames & Sonny T to win the title ... Jumbo Barretta defeated Frankie Rose.

(02-15-94)

-Shannon Rose

LIVE OAK-WCW at the Suwannee County Agricultural Center: Greg Pittman defeated Brian Anderson . Marcus Alexander Bagwell pinned Paul Roma ... In a 30-minute match where the title could only change hands in the first 15 minutes, Arn Anderson pinned TV champion Lord Steven Regal at 16:30, enabling Regal to retain the belt ... In a non-title match, Dustin Rhodes defeated U.S. champion Steve Austin when Col. Robert Parker tried to hit Rhodes with his shoe, but hit Austin instead ... Arn Anderson (substituting for World champion Ric Flair) defeated Paul Orndorff ... Rick Steamboat & Marcus Alexander Bagwell (substituting for Brian Pillman) beat World tag team champions The Nasty Boys by disqualification after Jerry Sags interfered. (02-05-94)

-Herb Kraft

GEORGIA

FORT OGLETHORPE—Tri-Star Wrestling at the Battlefield Flea Mall: The Lariat & Keith Hart defeated Billy Montana & Gene Spurlock when Hart pinned Montana ... Jessie Lee Blade, Mike Collins, & Jamie Strong beat Big Bubba Humphries & The Critters when Blade pinned Critter I ... Randy Steele, Richie Dye, Tracy Black, & Tim Strong defeated Dark Night I & II, Dangerous Dan, & Gene Spurlock ... Sam Colt & Keith Hart battled Jet Set I & II to a double-disqualification ... In a lumberjack match, Nightmare pinned Big Daddy ... Kenny Arden & Big Tiny beat Johnny Blaze & Danny Marlow to become the new tag team champions. (02-25-94)

-Bill Needham

ALBANY—WCW's SuperBrawl IV at the Civic Center: Harlem Heat defeated Thunder & Lightning when Kane pinned Thunder ... "Jungle" Jim Steele beat The Equalizer with a "Thesz press" and pin ... Terry Taylor beat "Diamond" Dallas Page ... Johnny B. Badd defeated Jim Garvin ... Television champion

Lord Steven Regal beat Arn Anderson after interference by Sir William Dundee ... Cactus Jack & Maxx Payne beat World tag team champions The Nasty Boys by disqualification when Brian Knobs smashed a guitar on Payne's head ... In a "Thundercage" match, Sting, Brian Pillman, & Dustin Rhodes defeated Paul Orndorff, Steve Austin, & Rick Rude when Sting lifted Pillman into the air and tossed him onto Austin for the pin ... In another "Thundercage" match, World champion Ric Flair beat Big Van Vader. (02-20-94)

-Matthew Fishman

ATLANTA—WCW Saturday Night TV taping at Center Stage Theater: "Jungle" Jim Steele pinned Ronnie Hagen ... World tag team champions The Nasty Boys (managed by Missy Hyatt) defeated Larry Santo & Otis Apollo ... Thunder & Lightning beat Ron Oakes & Buddy Lee Parker ... The Boss defeated Jake Stephens ... Paul Orndorff beat Matt Shimmers ... Brian Pillman defeated Mongolian Mauler (with Col. Robert Parker) ... Johnny B. Badd beat Bill Pain ... Mongolian Mauler defeated Brian Armstrong ... The Nasty Boys (with Missy Hyatt) & The Equalizer beat Pez Whatley, Mike Winner, & Sonny Rogers ... Terror Rising defeated Larry Santo ... In a nontitle match, The Patriot beat TV champion Lord Steven Regal ... Cactus Jack & Maxx Payne defeated The Cuban Connection ... Rick Steamboat beat Big Van Vader by disqualification after Harley Race interfered. (02-02-94)

-Bobby Bogni

INDIANA

INDIANAPOLIS—Championship Wrestling from Indiana at Tyndall Armory: Flash Flannagan beat San Francisco Kid ... Danny Anderson defeated Mad Man Pondo ... In a loser-leaves-town match, Mike Samples beat Doomsday ... In a loser-leaves-town match, The Barroom Brawlers defeated The American Eagles. (02-11-94)

-Sandy English

KENTUCKY

BARBOURVILLE—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at Knox Central High School: Bobby Blaze beat The Hornet ... The Moondogs wrestled The Bruise Brothers to a double-disqualification ... In a no-disqualification match, tag team champions The Heavenly Bodies defeated The Rock 'n' Roll Express ... Tony Anthony & Tracey Smothers beat Brian Lee & Chris Candido. (02-25-94)

-Millicent Gillingham

LOUISIANA

MORGAN CITY—NWF at the Municipal Auditorium: Scott & Steve Armstrong defeated

The Executioners ... Dusty Wolfe and Michael Lane battled to a 15-minute draw ... Wendi Richter beat Peggy Lee Leather ... Junkyard Dog defeated Pez Whatley ... Honky Tonk Man beat The Giant Warrior. (02-19-94)

-Ron Renard

MASSACHUSETTS

SPRINGFIELD—WWF Wrestling Challenge TV taping at the Civic Center: Marty Jannetty & Sparky Plugg defeated World tag team champions The Quebecers by countout ... Kwang the Ninja beat Brian Walsh ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon defeated Steve Lombardi ... Bam Bam Bigelow beat Dan Dubiel ... Irwin R. Schyster defeated John Paul Earthquake beat Bastion Booger ... The Bushwhackers defeated The Black Phantom & Reno Riggins ... Sparky Plugg beat Bert Santino ... World tag team champions The Quebecers defeated Tim McNeeney & Phil Apollo ... Doink the Clown beat Barry Horowitz ...World Women's champion Alundra Blayze defeated Debbie Combs ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon and Shawn Michaels battled to a double-countout ... Owen Hart beat Bart Gunn with a "sharpshooter" ... Marty Jannetty defeated Derrick Domino ... Men on a Mission beat "Iron" Mike Sharpe & Chris Duffy Sparky Plugg battled Rick Martel to a timelimit draw ... Doink the Clown & Dink defeated Bam Bam Bigelow & Luna Vachon ... Jeff Jarrett beat Mike Moraldo ... Earthquake defeated "Iron" Mike Sharpe ... The Headshrinkers beat Scott Taylor & Tony Roy The Smokin' Gunns defeated Mark Thomas & The Black Phantom ... Bret Hart beat Kwang the Ninja with a "sharpshooter" ... Lex Luger & Randy Savage defeated Crush & Yokozuna when Luger pinned Crush. (02-02-94)

-Dan Reilly

MICHIGAN

TAYLOR—Midwest Territorial Wrestling at the Sheridan Commuunity Center: Scott D'Amore beat Mickey Doyle ... Bobby Clancy defeated Steve Nixon ... Johnny K-9 The Dog of War beat Scott "The Rock" Stevens ... Denny Kass & Al Snow defeated Chris Carter & Muhammad Saad by disqualification ... Scott Summers beat Andy Fish ... Johnny Paradise (managed by "Handsome" Johnny Bradford) defeated Bobo Brazil Jr. ... The Heavenly Bodies (with Jim Cornette) beat Smoky Mountain Wrestling tag team champions The Rock 'n' Roll Express to regain the title they had lost the night before in Port Huron, Michigan. (02-19-94)

-Gary Woronchak

NEW JERSEY

WOODBURY—NWA Championship Wrestling America at the National Guard Armory: Abuddah Singh pinned Akima Bushido ... Ray Odyssey pinned Jimmy Shoulders ... Frank Finnegan defeated Kodiak Bear ... In a no-disqualification street fight, The Super Jocks (managed by Eddie Reality) beat The Spiders ... East L.A. pinned Ricky Blues after Tricky Nicky interfered ... Jerry Lawler pinned Doink the Clown (not the original) ... Sabu (managed by Tony Rumble) pinned Chris Benoit after Benoit, who had won by countout, refused to accept the result and demanded five more minutes. (02-19-94)

-Timothy A. Walker

PARSIPPANY—East Coast Pro Wrestling at the High School: Spanish Fly defeated Dennis Knight ... The Annihilators beat Jackknife Johnny & Metal Head by disqualification ... Kodiak Bear defeated Gino Caruso ... Spanish Fly beat Chris Anthony ... Grave Digger defeated Dennis Knight ... Rocky Jones beat Damlen Stone. (02-07-94)

-Morris Oldwick

NEW YORK

NEW YORK-World Wrestling Network TV taping at The Manhattan Center: Jake Roberts pinned "Cowboy" Bob Orton ... The Bruise Brothers defeated Keith Scherer & The Kodiak Bear ... The Convict (managed by Sherri Martel) pinned Jason Knight ... In a handicap match, 911 beat Mike Watson & Paul Warrior ... Public Enemy defeated Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond ... Tommy Dreamer beat Gino Caruso ... Terry Funk defeated The Kodiak Bear by submission ... J.T. Smith & Tommy Cairo beat Mike B. & The Captain ... Road Warrior Hawk defeated Keith Scherer ... Mikey Watson beat Jason Knight by referee's decision when Knight wouldn't remove his jacket to wrestle ... The Convict beat Mikey Watson by submission ... Tasmaniac defeated "Surfer" Ray Odyssey ... Public Enemy beat Paul Warrior & Mikey Watson ... "Cowboy" Bob Orton pinned Tommy Dreamer ... Keith Scherer pinned Jake Roberts after Sherri Martel and Shane Douglas interfered ... Road Warrior Hawk defeated The Convict (managed by Jason Knight) ... Terry Funk and Sabu (managed by Paul E. Dangerously) battled to a double-disqualification.

-Colleen Downey

MONTICELLO—IWCCW at Kutcher's Country Club: Tito Santana beat L.A. Gore ... The Power Blasters defeated Gino Caruso & Cousin Luke ... Manny Fernandez beat Chris "USA" Michaels ... "Pit Bull" Duke Snyder defeated Troy Mest ... Chris "USA" Michaels beat Damien Stone ... The Kodiak Bear defeated Bobby Evans. (02-23-94)

-Mario Fornini Jr.

POUGHKEEPSIE-WWF Monday Night Raw at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center: Crush & Owen Hart defeated The Smokin' Gunns when Bart Gunn submitted to Hart's "sharpshooter" ... World tag team champions The Quebecers beat Tony DeVito & P.J. Walker ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon defeated Mike Bell Irwin R. Schyster beat Mark Thomas ... Jeff Jarrett defeated Virgil ... Earthquake defeated The Executioner ... The Kid & Razor Ramon beat World tag team champs The Quebecers by disqualification when Shawn Michaels interfered ... Bret Hart defeated Tom Prichard by submission ... Doink the Clown beat Mike Sharpe ... Bam Bam Bigelow defeated Ben Jordan ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon beat Irwin R. Schyster in a ladder match ... Crush defeated Bret Hart by disqualification when Randy Savage interfered ... Lex Luger & Tatanka beat World champion Yokozuna & Kwang the Ninja ... Doink the Clown defeated Bam Bam Bigelow. (02-21-94)

-Blackjack Brown

NORTH CAROLINA

NORTH WILKESBORO—AIWF at the Armory: Indian Outlaw beat Midnight Rider ... The Heartbreak Express defeated Dynamite Doug & Patrick Friday when Brian Bruise pinned Doug ... The Boston Terrier and Gentleman James battled to a 15-minute, time-limit draw ... Chris Windham & Daniel Lee beat Rick Deezel & Luscious Lee Love ... In a special challenge match, Jumpin' Jimmy defeated Brian Bruise ... Jammer pinned lightweight champion Brian Danzig to win the title ... In a lumberjack strap match, Tennessee Violence Authority beat

Sebastian Kane & The Intimidator. (02-26-94)

-Dean Puckett

HAMLET—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Armory: Too Hot Thomas won an eight-man battle royal ... Tag team champions Terry Austin & Austin Steele beat Italian Stallion & Star Ryder ... Junior heavyweight champion George South defeated American G.I. ... Masked Maniac beat Flaming Youth ... Too Hot Thomas beat Texas Outlaw. (02-19-94)

-Brock Chandler

HICKORY—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at Fred T. Foard High School: Bobby Blaze defeated Curtis Thompson ... The Moondogs beat Bart & Brad Batten ... Tracey Smothers defeated Chris Candido ... Heavyweight champion Tony Anthony beat Brian Lee ... Tracey Smothers won a battle royal. (02-19-94)

-Tara Kimrey

ELKIN—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Armory: Flaming Youth won an eight-man battle royal, last eliminating Russian Assassin I ... Terry Austin & Austin Steele defeated tag team champions Italian Stallion & Star Ryder to win the title when Terry Austin pinned Ryder ... Junior heavyweight champion George South beat Super Ninja ... Cruel Connection II defeated Troy Powers ... Texas Outlaw beat American G.I. (02-04-94)

-Brock Chandler

OHIO

CLEVELAND—North Coast Wrestling Alliance at the Masonic Temple: Gino Caruso beat Johnny Rodz ... Cousin Luke defeated Damien Stone ... Wahoo McDaniel beat German Storm Trooper ... Greg Valentine defeated Junkyard Dog ... Demolition Ax beat Iron Sheik by disqualification ... Junkyard Dog won a battle royal. (02-12-94)

-Jeff Gorman

PENNSYLVANIA

BETHLEHEM-WWF TV taping at Lehigh University's Stabler Arena: Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon beat Irwin R. Schyster ... Tatanka defeated "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi ... The Garbage Man defeated Reno Riggins ... Shawn Michaels beat Dwight Bromall ... Earthquake defeated Bastion Booger ... Owen Hart pinned Ben Jordan ... The Heavenly Bodies beat John Paul & Mark Khoury ... Crush pinned Tom Almont ... Dolnk the Clown beat Bam Bam Bigelow when Dink interfered ... Diesel pinned John Crystal after a "jackknife power bomb" ... World Women's champion Alundra Blayze beat Heldi Lee Morgan ... Lex Luger & Tatanka beat Yokozuna & Kwang the Ninja when Luger pinned Kwang ... Bam Bam Bigelow beat John Paul ... Diesel pinned Bret Hart when Owen Hart interfered on Diesel's behalf ... Kwang the Ninja and Tatanka fought to a double-countout ... Owen Hart beat P.J. Walker ... Lex Luger beat Duane Gill by submission ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon pinned Steve Smith ... Randy Savage beat Crush. (02-22-94)

-Lisa DiCampli

DU BOIS—WWWA at the High School: Bobby Piper beat Mr. Motion ... Ace Darling pinned "Dashing" Drake Debonair ... The Mad Russian beat Rick Martin when Martin's manager, Angel, tossed in the towel ... Intercontinenta champion Jack Hammer beat Harley Lewis ... In the finals of a women's tournament, Angel beat Amy Lee to win the title. It was later stripped from

her for interfering in the Mad Russian-Rick Martin match ... Tag team champions The Bushwhackers beat The Diamond Express by disqualification when Diamond Mike interfered ... Heavyweight champion Nailz battled to a doublecountout with The Zombie. (02-13-94)

-Bob Stevens

PHILADELPHIA-ECW at the ECW Arena: 911 (with Paul E. Dangerously) pinned Chad Austin Mr. Hughes (with Jason) pinned "Wildman" Sal Bellomo ... In a double-dog-collar match, "Ironman" Tommy Cairo & The Sandman beat Rock 'n Rebel & Pit Bull Psycho Mike when Cairo pinned Spike ... In a grudge match with no rules, Public Enemy defeated The Bruise Brothers ... Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka (with Hunter Q. Robbins III) pinned Tommy Dreamer Pat Tanaka & The Original Sheik beat Tasmaniac & Kevin Sullivan (with Woman) when Tanaka pinned Tasmaniac after Sheik threw a fireball at Tasmaniac ... J.T. Smith pinned "Awesome" Mike Awesome ... In a three-way match for the heavyweight title, champion Terry Funk, Shane Douglas, and Sabu battled to a one-hour draw. Sabu and Douglas initially fought to a 15-minute draw, and then Funk joined in and all three wrestled to a 45-minute draw. (02-05-94)

-Bart Orkline

SOUTH CAROLINA

YORK-Pro Wrestling Federation at the National Guard Armory: Flaming Youth won an eight-man bunkhouse stampede, last eliminating Russian Assassin II ... Tag team champions Terry Austin & Austin Steele defeated Star Ryder & Italian Stallion ... Junior heavyweight champion George South beat American Ninja ... Intercontinental champion Cruel Connection II defeated "Ruthless" Randy Sledge ... Flaming Youth beat Texas Outlaw. (02-25-94)

-Brock Chandler

CHESTER-Carolina Championship Wrestling at the old National Guard Armory: Teddy Jam defeated Rick Starr ... Chris Hamrick & Johnny B. Goode beat Rico & Greg Hart ... Danell Duggan defeated Scotty Piper ... Iceman Kenny V beat The Rebel Stud to win the heavyweight title. (02-12-94)

-Dan Parris

GREENVILLE-Black Star Promotions at the Memorial Auditorium: In a non-title bout, David Isley beat Southern junior heavyweight champion Kirk Michaels ... Jimmy Valiant defeated J.W. Steele by disqualification ... Greg Valentine & Masked Undertaker defeated Fabulous Blond & Demolition Ax. (01-31-94)

-Dan Parris

MEMPHIS-USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: Ken Wayne defeated Tony Williams ... Spellbinder beat Skull Von Crush ... Robert Gibson beat Koko B. Ware by disqualification when Ware was caught using brass knuckles In a hubcap-ladder match, J.C. Ice defeated Wolfie D ... Doug Gilbert pinned Southern champion Brian Christopher to win the title ... USWA champ Eddie Gilbert beat Jerry Lawler by disqualification when Lawler used several piledrivers ... In a non-title match, Jerry Lawler & Brian Christopher beat tag team champs The Moondogs when Christopher pinned Spot. (02-21-94)

-Mark Mitchell

KNOXVILLE-Tennessee All-State Wrestling at Halls High School: "Jumping" Jeff Gann beat The Jail Breaker ... Rick Conners pinned The Storm Trooper ... Deke Rivers pinned Mike Powers ... Jimmy Golden and The Atlanta Superstar battled to a double-countout ... Rick Conners & Jeff Gann defeated Storm Trooper & Jail Breaker when Conners pinned Breaker ... Jimmy Golden won a 10-man, \$2,500 over-thetop battle royal. (02 - 19 - 94)

-Bill Needham KNOXVILLE—Smoky Mountain Wrestling "Sunday Bloody Sunday" at the Civic Coliseum (matinee): Anthony Michaels pinned The Hornet ... Chris Candido defeated Tracey Smothers ... In a Tennessee-football-helmet-ona-pole match, Doug & Mike Furnas beat The Heavenly Bodies ... The Bullet defeated Terry Funk, enabling Bob Armstrong to regain his title as SMW commissioner ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express wrestled tag team champions The Heavenly Bodies to a draw ... In a Tennessee chain match, Tony Anthony defeated heavyweight champion Brian Lee to win the title ... In a cage match, The Bruise Brothers defeated The Moondogs. (02-13-94)

-Bill Needham

TEXAS

DALLAS-Global Wrestling Federation at the Sportatorium: Plowboy Wilbur defeated Dapper Dan ... Rod Price & Crybaby Buxton beat Chaz Taylor & Steven Dane ... Iceman Parsons defeated Angel of Death by disqualification after Action Jackson interfered ... Jeep Swenson beat John Hawk by disqualification ... Calvin Knapp (substituting for Steven Dane) pinned light heavyweight champion Alex Porteau to win the title ... In a hair match, Chaz Taylor defeated Crybaby Buxton, whose head was then shaved ... In a non-title bout, Rod Price defeated heavyweight champion Chris Adams to earn a title match. (02-20-94)

-Ron Yarborough

MOUNT PLEASANT-World Class Championshiwp Wrestling at the Civic Center: Scott Putski pinned Alex Porteau ... Tasha Samone defeated Mad Madeline ... John Hawk pinned "Maniac" Mike Davis ... In a no-disqualification, no-rules Texas death match, Chris Adams beat Rod Price ... Heavyweight champion Kevin Von Erich pinned Black Bart (managed by Gen. Skandor Akbar). (02-19-94)

-Ron Yarborough

DALLAS-Big D Championship Wrestling at the Fiesta Rocket Palace: Terry Black & Allen Dillion defeated Big B.A. Dalton & Broadway Danny ... In a "Queen of the Ring" match, Mad Madeline beat Tasha Samone by pulling her tights ... Mascara De Fuego defeated El Siniestro ... Wild Bill Irwin beat Mike Savage ... In a taped-fist match, Big D defeated Kit Carson ... Billy Joe Travis & Mr. Mister defeated Ray Evans & Bullman Downs ... In an eight-foot chain match, Terry Simms beat "Killer" Tim Brooks by reverse decision when Bullman Downs interfered. (02-18-94)

-Ron Yarborough

AUSTIN-Lone Star Championship Wrestling at the Doris Miller Auditorium: Chaz Taylor defeated Pete Christie ... Rick Garen, Wichita Willie, & Chief Little Bear beat Maniac Manny, El Olympico, & Judge Doom ... Doc Holliday & Hawaiian Crunch defeated The Hollywood Knights ... Dusty Wolfe battled Tarzan Taylor to a double-countout ... Bubba Monroe beat

Tugboat Taylor by disqualification ... Danny Davis defeated Night Breeder. (02-05-94)

-Darrell Brack

VIRGINIA

APPALACHIA-Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the Civic Center: Tracey Smothers defeated Chris Candido ... Tony Anthony beat heavy-weight champion Brian Lee by disqualification after Tammy Fytch interfered ... Tag team champions The Heavenly Bodies beat The Rock 'n' Roll Express by disqualification ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express won a battle royal. (02-04-94)

-Tara Kimrey

WEST VIRGINIA
POINT PLEASANT—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Central Gym: Flaming Youth won a 10-man bunkhouse stampede, last eliminating Masked Maniac ... Heavyweight champion Italian Stallion defeated Black Scorpion ... Junior heavyweight champion George South beat Star Ryder ... Tag team champions Austin Steele & Terry Austin defeated Southern Rocker & Too Hot Thomas ... Cruel Connection II pinned Intercontinental champion American G.I. to win the title ... Texas Outlaw beat Hillbilly. (02-12-94)

-Brock Chandler

BECKLEY-Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the Raleigh County Armory: Brad Batten pinned Robbie Eagle ... Bart Batten beat Prince Kharis by disqualification ... Bobby Blaze defeated Killer Kyle ... Tony Anthony & Tracey Smothers beat Brian Lee & Chris Candido by disqualification when Tammy Fytch was caught spraying Anthony with hair spray ... Tag team champions The Heavenly Bodies defeated The Rock 'n' Roll Express by countout. (02-06-94)

-Millicent Gillingham

INTERNATIONAL

AUSTRIA

VIENNA-WWF at Vienna City Hall: Jeff Jarrett pinned Jim Powers ... Doink the Clown pinned Bam Bam Bigelow ... Rick & Scott Steiner defeated World tag team champions The Quebecers by disqualification ... Adam Bomb pinned Billy Gunn ... Diesel pinned Marty Jannetty ... Lex Luger & Bret Hart beat Yokozuna & Kwang the Ninja when Kwang submitted to Hart's "sharpshooter". (02-04-94)

-Robert Edihauser

TORONTO, ONTARIO-WWF at Maple Leaf Gardens: Sparky Plugg beat Rick Martel ... World Women's champion Alundra Blayze defeated Heidi Lee Morgan ... Owen Hart beat Richard Charland (substituting for The Kid) ... In what originally was a ladder match, Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon defeated Irwin R. Schyster. IRS reached the belt on the ladder after Shawn Michaels interfered, but the result was voided and Ramon and Schyster then wrestled in a conventional, one-fall match that Ramon won ... World tag team champions The Quebecers beat The Smokin' Gunns when Pierre pinned Billy Gunn ... Bret Hart defeated Shawn Michaels despite interference from Owen Hart ... Jeff Jarrett beat Bob Backlund ... Lex Luger & Randy Savage defeated Yokozuna & Crush when Luger pinned Yokozuna. (02-20-94)

-Steve Argintaru

JOLIETTE, QUEBEC—Northern Championship Wrestling at Joliette College: Boris Khrushchev & Crazy Eddie beat El Diablero & Kenny Bauman ... Lucifer & Headhunter II defeated Brick Lawrence & Headhunter I ... Syl Dancer & Dream Killer beat The Fuhrer & The Warlock ... Frank Blues & The Maharaja defeated Damlen & Jack the Lumberjack ... Syl Belanger & Steph Belanger beat The Rebel & The Iceman ... Boris Khrushchev won a battle royal involving the 10 winners of the tag team matches to earn a title match against heavyweight champion Dream Killer. (02-19-94)

-Bertrand Hebert

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA—River City Wrestling at the Chalmers Community Center: Caveman Broda beat Bobby Jay by countout ... Constable King defeated Outpatient ... Robby Royce, Vance Nevada, & Dakota Moondog beat Pink Panther, Dr. Demento, & Steve Stryker ... Mike Stone defeated U.S. Male ... Stan Saxon beat Brian Jewel. (02-17-94)

-Jason Mason

JAPAN

TOKYO—All-Japan Women at Korakuen Hall: Bull Nakano defeated Etsuko Mita ... UWA tag team champions Yumiko Hotta & Takako Inoue beat Kyoko Inoue & Kaoru Ito ... WWWA tag team champions Toshiyo Yamada & Minami Toyota defeated Aja Kong & Sukie Hasegawa. (02-27-94)

-Koichi Yoshizawa

TOKYO—FMW at Korakuen Hall: Tetsuhiro Kuroda beat Mr. Chin ... Katsuji Ueda defeated Dark Ranger ... Damien, Ricky Fuji, & Primo Carnera Jr. beat Koji Nakagowa, Masato Tanaka, & Gosaku Goshogawora ... Crusher Maedomari, Shark Tsuchiya, Lola Gonzalez, Bambi, & Tsuppari Mack defeated Miwa Sato, Yukie Nabeno, Nurse Nakemura, Keiko Iwami, & Nefutario ... Megumi Kudo beat Lelani Kai to win the Women's Carnival tournament and the WWA Women's Carnival tournament and the WWA Women's title ... In a no-time-limit, streetfight, cargo-survival match, Hisakatsu Ohya, Hideki Hosaka, & Masaku Toi defeated Sambo Asaka, Kotsutoshi Niiyama, & Mr. Gannosuke ... In a no-time-limit, no-rope, barbed-wire death match, Atsushi Onita & Tarzan Goto beat Mr. Pogo & Goro Tsurumi.

-Koichi Yoshizawa

TOKYO—New Japan Pro Wrestling at Sumo Hall: Yuji Nagata defeated Tokimitsu Ishizawa ... Max Moon & Wild Pegasus beat Shinjiro Otani & El Samurai ... Manabu Nakanishi, Takayuki lizuka, & Akira Nogami defeated Mike Enos, Bobby Eaton, & Rambo ... Akitoshi Saito beat Satoshi Kojima ... Norio Honaga & Hiro Saito defeated Masanobu Kurisu & Super Strong Machine ... In a best-of-three-falls match, Hiroshi Hase, Masa Chono, Osamu Kido, Riki Choshu, & Tatsumi Fujinami beat Michiyoshi Ohara, The Great Kabuki, Tatsutoshi Goto, Shiro Koshinaka, & Kengo Kimura ... Rick & Scott Steiner defeated Jushin Liger & Kensuke Sasaki ... Shinya Hashimoto beat Genichiro Tenryu. (02-17-94)

-Koichi Yoshizawa

FUKAYA—Frontier Martial Arts at the City Gym: Gosatu Goshagawara pinned Mr. Chin ... Yukie Nabeno & Miwa Sato beat Narsu Nakamura & Keiko Iwami ... Masato Tanaka pinned Dan Kranger ... Damien beat Tetsuhiro Kuroda ... Mugumi Kudo beat Malia Hosaka ... Lelani Kai, Rita Gonzales, Bambi, & Nefutari beat Crusher Maedomari, Combat Toyota, Shanke Tsuchiya, & Tsuppari Mack ... Primo Carnera Jr. &

Riki Fuji beat Sambo Asako & Battle Ranger ... Mr. Pogo, Hisakatsu Ohya, Goro Tsurumi, Hideki Hasaka, & Toi Masaru beat Atsushi Onita, Tarzan Goto, Mr. Gannosuke, Katsutoshi Niiyama & Koji Nakagawa. (02-11-94)

-Koichi Yoshizawa

PUERTO RICO

SAN JUAN-International Wrestling Assocation at Levels Disco: Slick Patterson beat Bill Pain ... Mike Anthony defeated Magnifico ... The Headhunters & Winger beat Paul Diamond, Mark Starr, & Commando II ... North American champion Ricky Santana defeated Steve Collins Brian Lee pinned White Wolf ... Tasmaniac, Fidel Sierra, & Hatanaka beat Tommy Dreamer, Reuben Gonzales, & Johnny Gomez ... Bad News Brown defeated Steve Collins ... The Bruise Brothers beat Dick Murdoch & Nakamaki .. Foreign Exchange defeated Ricky Santana & Lou Perez ... Stevie Ray beat Commando I ... Miguel Perez Jr. pinned Brian Lee ... The Bruise Brothers & Bad News Brown beat Tejano, Magnifico, & Rochero ... Foreign Exchange defeated Mark Starr & Hatanaka ... Miguel Perez Jr. beat Tasmaniac ... The Headhunters, Tejano, & Magnifico defeated Lou Perez, Ricky Santana, Paul Diamond, & Fidel Sierra ... Slick Patterson beat Stevie Ray. (02-22-94)

-Sumio Yamada

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES—At the Olympic Auditorium: Mike & Ben Sharpe battled The Fabulous Kangaroos to a draw ... Whipper Watson defeated Hardy Kruskamp ... Sam Steamboat beat Larry Moquinn ... Rito Romero defeated Red Berry ... Art Mahalick and Bob Wilson wrestled to a draw ... In a best-of-three-falls match, World Wrestling Association heavyweight champion Edouard Carpentier defeated Lou Thesz when Thesz was counted out in the third fall by referee "Red Shoes" Dugan. (05-28-60)

-Sam Schnitzer

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—At Madison Square Garden: Miguel Perez defeated Eduardo Cholak ... Mark Lewin and Skull Murphy battled to a 15-minute draw ... Bobo Brazil pinned Bob Orton ... Tony Manousis beat Pampero Firpo ... Mike Mazurki and Gene Rougeau wrestled to a 15-minute draw ... Johnny Barend defeated Billy Darnell ... Johnny Valentine & Vittorio Apollo battled Al Costello & Roy Heffernan to a draw ... In a best-of-three-falls match, Antonino Rocca & Eduardo Carpentier beat Shohei Baba & Yosshio Suzuki ... In a best-of-three-falls match, Buddy Rogers and "Cowboy" Bob Ellis fought to a draw. Referee Danny Bartfield halted the match at 3:02 of the third fall, ruling neither wrestler could continue. (05-26-62)

-Vic Scutari

OREGON

SALEM—At the Grand Theatre: Stan Stasiak defeated The Beast with a heartpunch and bodypress ... Kurt Von Steiger pinned Haru Sasaki after a missed flying tackle ... In a best-of-three-falls match, Jimmy Snuka defeated Karl Von Steiger by disqualification after refusing to let go of his leglock during the third fall ... In a best-of-three-falls match, Johnny Boyd pinned Cowboy Laine when The Beast diverted Laine's attention. (05-20-71)

-George Barza



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press conference

(Continued from page 23)

wrestlers." Then the guy goes to Louisville Gardens and says this girl has been having sex with Jerry Lawler and the wrestlers on Tuesday night. He threatens to sue the whole building and everybody concerned. Then his last straw is to go to the police. Apparently, what happened is that when they heard my name, their ears perked up and their eyes bugged out and figured, here's a big headline case.

ROSENBAUM: But didn't the prosecutor

and the police bother talking to the young girl and finding out what really happened?

LAWLER: It was such a con job. They went to the girl to talk and made her mother go out of the room. They questioned her in this manner: Is this what you said to this guy? Did you say this to him? It was a leading interrogation. She said, "Yes, I did say that." Then the female prosecutor went out to talk to her and this 14-year-old girl didn't know what's going on. They were making her cry. Finally, the mother told them to get out of the house and leave them slone. The next thing I

know, they come to me with the charge of statutory rape and sodomy.

ROSENBAUM: So you were indicted by the grand jury. You probably couldn't believe what was going on.

LAWLER: I couldn't believe this was happening. I realized right then that I was fixing to get caught up in the Kentucky legal system simply because of my name. If this whole thing was on the up-and-up, this young lady mentioned five different people other than myself. I didn't see any of them in there. The only one in there was the celebrity.

ROSENBAUM: Did you think your career was in trouble?

LAWLER: Well, sure, absolutely.

Publicity of this kind is certainly going to be damaging to anybody.

ROSENBAUM: What was your next move?

LAWLER: I went back to Memphis, checked with some people, and got the telephone number of the young lady. I called her and talked to her and her mother. I asked them what is going on. That's how I found out the true facts. They told

the attorney had me come back to his office and he told me he had to charge me \$40,000 for the case. I left the office, came straight down to Memphis, and decided I was fixing to get hometowned in Louisville. The attorneys, the judges, and the prosecutors all work together.

ROSENBAUM: It sounds like the movie *My Cousin Vinny*.

LAWLER: That's exactly what happened.

Lawler executes his flying fistdrop against longtime foe Eddie Gilbert (left). USWA fans are watching these rivals switch the title belt nearly every week in some very heated matches (below).



me it was the guy who pressured my daughter into telling the story.

ROSENBAUM: Is that where the harrassing a witness charge came from?

LAWLER: It came from that right there. From talking to them on the telephone.

ROSENBAUM: Did you make any threatening remarks?

LAWLER: No, not at all. These people were perfectly civil and friendly to me because they knew it was a bunch of bull. It all started with this guy, and now they were all caught up in this web like I was.

ROSENBAUM: This must have cost you a fortune in attorney's fees.

LAWLER: Well, as soon as I got indicted,



I hired an attorney in Memphis named William D. Massey and fired the other attorney. Bill didn't give a damn whose toes he stepped on. He came up there and took the bull by the horns and did what should've been done right away. What he did should've gotten this case settled immediately.

ROSENBAUM: I guess that's when the rumors first came out that the charges were going to be dropped.

LAWLER: He met with the young lady and her mother and another attorney. The young lady and her mother gave a 51/2-

page sworn affidavit telling the true facts of the story, that the story she told was fabricated, that she had never had sex with me or the other people mentioned. She and her mother both swore to that under oath. He took that affidavit to the DA and showed it to them for the case to be dropped. There was no case anymore. But because it was Jerry Lawler, the prosecutor said we're going to push on. I believe her original story. I think he probably called her on the phone and got her to switch the story.

ROSENBAUM: Then what happened?

LAWLER: I told them in my original

statement to the police that I had audio tapes of my conversation with this young girl and her mother and that on these audio tapes there were statements by the mother saying the young girl was not always truthful with her, and statements by other friends of this young lady who said the girl admitted to them she made up the story. The DA and the prosecutor said they wanted to hear it. My attorney said no, because we're going to use it for impeachment purposes. On the day before New Year's, five minutes after the courts closed in Louisville, when there would be no avenue of protection available, the prosecutor and their detective in the case served a search warrant on my attorney's office and they seized those audio tapes. Now, they thought somewhere on the audio tapes was me threatening or coercing the witness. But the truth of

ROSENBAUM: Is that what your attorney argued?

the matter was there was nothing of the kind on those audio tapes. This unprece-

dented serach and seizure of a lawyer's office violates attorney/client privilege.

LAWLER: Yes. My attorney and my Louisville representative, another great attorney named Tim Dennison, immediately filed a motion based on the illegal search and seizure of an attorney's office. They filed a motion for dismissal.

ROSENBAUM: How did it end?

LAWLER: At 12 noon on the day we were in court, they sent a new assistant DA to take over for the female prosecutor. He met with my attorney and said, "This



When Gilbert isn't torturing Lawler in the ring, he has vowed to take all "The King's" possessions. Remember, Gilbert once tried to run over Lawler with his car!

thing has gone on too long. It needs to be resolved."

ROSENBAUM: Did they offer the plea bargain?

LAWLER: They said, "We need a deal." It was a face-saving deal for them. They knew they had a screwed-up case. So they said since you did talk to those people on the telephone, if you'll plead guilty to harrassment, there'll be no jail and no fine and we'll dismiss all the other charges.

ROSENBAUM: Meanwhile, a lot of

things happened to you while this was going on. Why did the WWF drop you?

LAWLER: Well, I wouldn't say they actually dropped me. It was a mutual agreement between me and them that with two indictments coming out at the same time, mine and Vince's [McMahon], within a week of each other, it was probably in the best interests of everyone concerned to take an hiatus and avoid negative publicity that would not have helped either one of us.

ROSENBAUM: How did people react to you while everything was going on? Were people supportive?

LAWLER: There was never any doubt from people that knew me. There was no difference in the reaction from the fans. If anything, there was even more support because they realized I was being taken advantage of. It wasn't a prosecution. It was a

persecution.

ROSENBAUM: Obviously nothing positive came out of this for you. Is there anything you can learn from it?

LAWLER: Yeah, you can learn a couple of things. You have to be ultra-careful dealing with or being too close to the fans. Also you never know what can happen to you over somebody's word. The main thing I learned is that this country and the legal system was supposed to be built on the tradition of a person is innocent until proven guilty, but that's the biggest lie in the world. I'm here to tell you that you are guilty until you've proven yourself innocent. Somebody can say anything they want about you and you

have to prove that it didn't happen.

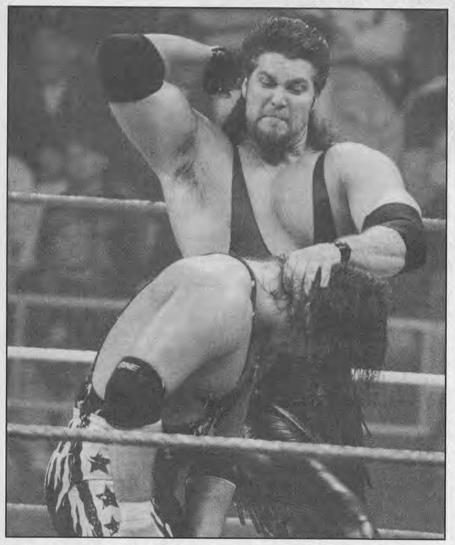
ROSENBAUM: And you're convinced that if this girl went along with the guy's story, you would have been in trouble?

LAWLER: Absolutely. Of course. And there was a danger of that happening because the prosecutor threatened her with being taken away from her mother and with legal action for false statements to a police officer. But, fortunately, this young lady was brave enough to stand up and tell the truth.



off the top rope

(Continued from page 16)



Why is Diesel (battering Bret Hart) wasting time looking out for Shawn Michaels when he could cause his own kind of havoc in the WWF? There's an answer, but no one really cares that there is one.

Dear Kevin,

It was in vogue several years ago to blame every ill in pro wrestling on McMahon. It's a shame that Mr. Bernucca, who should know better, clings to the same tired sentiment. Vince McMahon merely did what any promoter worth his salt does: He gave the public what they wanted. It is unfortunate that the public chose Hulkamania and its offspring over more reasonable and sane alternatives. It will take many years to determine whether McMahon's legacy caused more damage than progress.

Dear Eddie,

My main beef concerns Diesel. The guy is definitely championship material. Why is he wasting time in Shawn Michaels' dreamworld? He should take out Ramon, take out Yokozuna, and take over the federation.

ADAM BRADSHAW Snow Hill, NC

Dear Adam,

It must be quite a thrill for you to see your question appear in this column. Quite a thrill indeed, little Adam. Imagine, from the thousands of letters I get each month, I select yours to appear in this preciously small and valuable space. Why, Adam? Certainly your question isn't particularly compelling. Your handwriting is childish, you can't spell to save your miserable little life, and you write as if English was your fourth language. So why would I choose your letter, Adam? Why indeed?

Dear Eddie.

Who do you think was the greatest world champion of all-time? And who do you think was the greatest wrestler never to win a championship?

JIMMY UNDERWOOD St. Albans, WV

Dear Jimmy,

This will disappoint many readers, but my new flavor of the month was one of the great fan favorites of all-time. In watching old clips, I've lately gained new admiration for former WWF champion Pedro Morales. Though he held the title for only 23/4 years (imagine a modern wrestler holding it for that long), he was physically outmatched in virtually every defense. Giving away three, four, or five inches and hundreds of pounds five times a week is not as easy as you think. Morales' contemporary, Chief Jay Strongbow, was in my mind the greatest wrestler to never win a title. Don't write to me about Bruiser Brody-he held dozens of belts throughout his career. Strongbow never owned a singles title.

The closest analogy I can make is in college basketball during the years of UCLA's dominating reign. Only one team from each conference made the playoffs. Some years teams in UCLA's conference finished with only two league losses, but both were to UCLA. Over a period of 10 years, Strongbow was consistently the second-ranked fan favorite in the federation. But there was no other title for him to compete for. The WWF title was locked up between Morales and Bruno Sammartino, and then as now, fan favorites were never matched against one another.



#1: Big Ben



#2: Ace Stevens



#3: Jaeger van Dorn



#4: Bodybag Jones



#5: Wildfire Johnny Rage



#6: Eric Darkstrom



#7: Nook the Secret Weapon



#8: Derek Craven



#10: Tygar Singh **SET-UP HOLDS**

61. ABDOMINAL STRETCH

BACKROLL PRESS BELLY TO BELLY BIG SPLASH

BOSTON CRAB BRAIN BUSTER

CAMEL CLUTCH COBRA CLUTCH

CRADLE

62. ATOMIC DROP 63. AVALANCHE 64. BACKBREAKER



WEAR-DOWN HOLDS

1. AIRPLANE SPIN

ARMBAR ARMDRAG

ARMLOCK ARM STRETCH

ARM WHIP

ASIAN SPIKE

BEAR HUG

BITING

BODY SLAM BODY TACKLE CHICKEN WING

13 CHOKE

CLAW

CLOTHESLINE CROSS BODY BLOCK

DOUBLE AXEHANDLE

DROP KICK

EAGLE SPLIT

ELBOW SMASH EYE GOUGE

FACE RAKE FIREMAN'S CARRY RAM

FLYING BODY PRESS

FLYING CLOTHESLINE FLYING DROP KICK

FLYING ELBOW DROP

FLYING HEAD BUTT FLYING MARE FOREARM SMASH

FOREIGN OBJECT

FULL NELSON GIANT SWING

GRAPEVINE

HAIR PULLING HAMMERLOCK

HEAD LOCK

HEAD STOMP

HEART PUNCH HIP ROLL

IRISH WHIP KNEE DROP

LEGLOCK

MANAGER INTERFERENCE MONKEY FLIP

OVERHEAD TOSS

POLE RAM

REVERSE CHINLOCK

49. 50. 51. ROLLING SCISSORS ROPE BURN

SAVATE KICK SCISSORS GRIP

SHOULDER BREAKER SLINGSHOT

52. SCISSORS G 53. SHOULDER E 54. SLINGSHOT 55. SNAP MARE 56. STEP-OVER 57. SUPLEX 58. SURFBOARD 59. TURNBUCKL 60. WRISTLOCK SNAP MARE STEP-OVER TOE HOLD SUPLEX TURNBUCKLE SMASH

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75. DDT	
76. FIGURE FOUR	
75. DDT 76. FIGURE FOUR 77. FLYING LEG DROP 78. GOURD BUSTER 79. INDIAN DEATH LOCK	
78. GOURD BUSTER	
70 INDIAN DEATH LOCK	

80. NECKBREAKER

PILEDRIVER POWER BOMB POWER SLAM RUSSIAN SICKLE

SLEEPER SLINGSHOT SUPLEX

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from the desk of...

(Continued from page 8)

for him once that bell rings."

Cornette will go so far as to take a seat in the upper level to videotape matches of his wrestlers and his wrestlers' future opponents. You probably wouldn't know he was there, because he does his work in disquise, but Cornette, a former photographer for this family of magazines, prefers to do the work himself. "Certainly, it would be a lot easier to hire someone to do it," he said. "And, yes, I do run the risk of being recognized by the riffraff sitting near me, but I've found this is the best way to get the job done. Only I know what I want my wrestlers to see.

"I might be videotaping a tag team match and at times I won't keep the camera on the action. I might want my team to learn the traits and tendencies of the man who is *not* in the ring. What will he do



It's attention to detail that makes a good wrestling manager, and Jim Cornette excels at it. He videotapes not only his teams' matches, but those of opponents as well.

just before jumping into the action? How long does he need to recover from his time spent in the ring?

"Everything, I mean everything, is analyzed and analyzed over again."

According to Paul E. Dangerously, the fans aren't the only ones who underestimate his full value as a manager. Sometimes, he says, the wrestlers you manage are so wrapped up in themselves that they just don't see what is going on around them. The Dangerous Alliance of Rick Rude, Steve Austin, Bobby Eaton, Arn Anderson, and Madusa might be the perfect example.

"From the get-go, I laid down the law," Paul E. said. "I told them that they would train the way I told them to train, that they would wrestle the way I told them to wrestle, that they would take what I wanted to pay them. Mind you, everything I did I did for a reason, and that reason was the betterment of the unit. In the beginning, they all understood that and were willing to make any sacrifice. It was a case of a group of veteran wrestlers who have all had managers before. They might not have understood what my plan was, but they respected my brilliance and were willing to follow."

Of course, the Alliance self-destructed.

"Sure it did," Dangerously said.
"After a while, everybody began to overlook the hours of time I spent studying. While they were in bed at night and getting their eight hours, I was in my library watching tapes, sorting out strategies on my computer, working out our finances. I didn't make a big deal about it to the group; I just assumed they knew and appreciated."

Tammy Fytch is determined not to let such a thing happen to her. Though relatively new to the sport, she has her mind made up just how she is going to relate to any wrestler lucky enough to pay her 33 percent of his take. "My contract always gives me an 'out' clause," she told me. "If a wrestler begins to take me

for granted, I'm out. I'm speaking hypothetically, of course, because I've never had a problem with Brian Lee ... but if Brian Lee doesn't appreciate what Tammy Fytch can do for him, it'll take about five minutes to find someone who will."



Tammy Fytch's success has made her a popular target of wrestlers seeking managers. She says she receives about 10 letters a day, and has learned to separate the wheat from the chaff.

According to Fytch, she has a file of 40 names ("some of which are in your magazine's Top 10") along with letters begging her to manage them. "Actually," she said, "I get about 10 letters a day, some from established wrestlers, others from guys trying to break in. I can eliminate about 80 percent right off the bat. Half of those want me because they think my perfume spray will lead them to titles, the other half want to get up close and smell my perfume.

"I know which ones are serious; those are the names I'll keep."

The serious ones know that there is more to Fytch than a perfume atomizer, more to Dangerously than a cellular phone, and more to Cornette than a tennis racket.

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ringside

(Continued from page 7)

In an emotional interview, the heavyweight champion talked about his career and how ECW was his last stand. **Shane Douglas** was ling Network with a TV taping at New York's Manhattan Center (former home of WWF Monday Night Raw). Funk and Sabu battled to a



then interviewed, and berated Funk in a foul-mouthed way. The champ confronted Douglas, and a brawl resulted.

Longtime promoter Jim Crockett unveiled his new World WrestIs tax accountant Irwin R. Schyster appraising the value of Tatanka's new headdress? No—he's trying to pluck some of its feathers. The Native American was given the headdress by Wahoo McDaniel and Chief Jay Strongbow.



A prematch stipulation forced Lawler to hand over his crown to Gilbert. Lawler retreated to the dressing room, eventually reemerging and giving "Hot Stuff" a smaller version of the crown. Eddie didn't appreciate that.

In contrast, the USWA tag belts used to change hands almost every week. Not anymore! The Moondogs have held the title for several weeks.

That's all for now. See you at ringside!

Two veterans did battle in the first match ever held in the new World Wrestling Network promotion. Jake Roberts rallied to defeat "Cowboy" Bob Orton to open a TV taping at The Manhattan Center in New York.

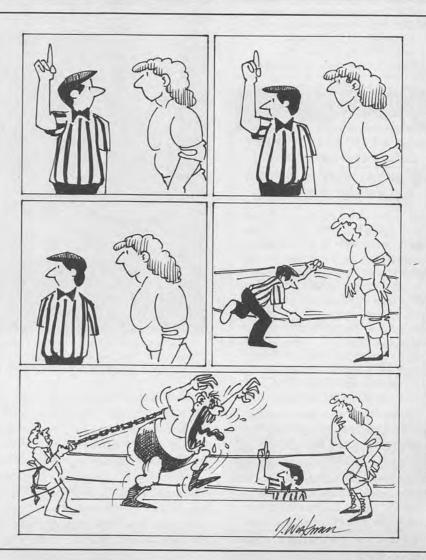
wild double-countout in the featured match, and other stars such as Jake Roberts, "Cowboy" Bob Orton, and The Bruise Brothers also stepped into the ring.

Douglas appeared, though he didn't wrestle, and introduced his "head cheerleader." It was none other than Hyatt! This could be interesting, since Martel still manages Douglas in ECW.

The WWN plans to run cards in Virginia and the Carolinas, and will soon hold a tournament to determine a heavyweight champion.

There's been a real tug-of-war between **Doug Gilbert** and **Brian Christopher** for the USWA Southern belt. At press time, the two had traded the title four consecutive weeks! Doug's brother, **Eddie**, has also been in a heated rivalry for the USWA belt with Memphis monarch **Jerry Lawler**. They've been at each other's throats for years.

The latest war saw Eddie beat Lawler in a "coward-waves-the-flag" match when the referee thought Christopher, "The King's" second, was waving his flag.



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between falls

(Continued from page 5)

did this for about seven days, spending an average of four to six hours a day in the store. I would just like to commend Vladimir for his efforts. He is a fine gentleman and an inspiration to all of us.

> JACK HARRISON Victoria, British Columbia

THE NEW COMMISH

Although we heard rumors about a lot of other candidates, WCW made an in-

everything to the table he is capable of, WCW's future appears very promising. However, I had rejoiced when Bill Watts was named executive vice president. We all know how that turned out.

RICHARD EVANS

Gulfport, MS

TO FUTURE CHAMPIONS

I just finished watching WCW's SuperBrawl IV and besides the two unbelievable "Thundercage" matches,



A SuperBrawl IV tag team match between Harlem Heat and Thunder and Lightning pleased "PWI Hotline" caller Reggie Renaldo. He maintains Thunder and Lightning will win the WCW World tag team title within the next two years.

spired, enlightened choice when it selected Nick Bockwinkel as commissioner. Bockwinkel was four-time World champion in the now-defunct AWA. He was both a reviled rulebreaker and a respected fan favorite during his career. Throughout it all, Bockwinkel was regarded as one of the most intelligent, articulate, and knowledgeable men in the sport—a real class act. If he brings

two other bouts caught my attention. The first was the bout between Thunder and Lightning and Harlem Heat. It was a lot better than I expected. My friends and I thought Kane and Kole would have any easy time of it against the young team of Thunder and Lightning. No way. Thunder and Lightning came extremely close to pulling off a huge upset. Mark my words: They



Rick Rude should be acknowledged by PWI as a champion even though WCW severed ties with the NWA, according to reader John J. Ayotte. He maintains Rude should be recognized as WCW's International champion.

will be champions within the next year or two.

The other match was between TV champ Lord Steven Regal and Arn Anderson. When I heard about Arn's fight with Sid Vicious in England last year, I figured he'd probably never be the same wrestler. Again I was wrong. "The Enforcer" looks like he hasn't missed a beat. I'm sure he'll have the TV belt around his waist by the summer of '94. Both Thunder and Lightning and Arn Anderson are definitely heading toward the top of WCW.

REGGIE RENALDO Talladega, AL

RESPECT ROSS

I'm very upset about the criticism your publications and many fans have given to Jim Ross. A lot of people have called Ross a WCW defector ... even a traitor. At the same time, you say Bobby Heenan and Gene Okerlund are to be commended for entering WCW. No one says Heenan or Okerlund stabbed the WWF in the back by switching federations. But when Ross left WCW, it was like he committed a crime. As far as I'm concerned, WCW fans should respect Jim Ross

and his decision to leave. He deserves the same treatment as Heenan and Okerlund.

> JOHN BALDWIN San Diego, CA

RUDE DECISION

I am writing on behalf of "Ravishing" Rick Rude. I think it's unfair that you refuse to acknowledge him as a champion just because WCW severed ties with the NWA. He beat Ric Flair, one of the greatest wrestlers of alltime, and still you give him no credit. He's been having title problems since he tried to win the WWF World title from The Ultimate Warrior. I was relieved to see him come to WCW, where he won the U.S. title from Sting in November 1991.

At least WCW International has recognized Rude as a world champion. Since you say WCW can have only one world title, why not recognize him as the WCW *International* champion? This isn't creating a new title ... it's just renaming an existing championship. I only ask you to consider this for the sake of Rude and all his fans.

JOHN J. AYOTTE Bay City, MI □

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win, lose, or draw

(Continued from page 12)

I keep thinking of the encounter with Hogan. The sound of the "Hulkster's" ribs cracking brought a hideous smile to Earthquake's face. The smile spread even wider when he heard Hogan's cries of anguish.

I think of the sight of some longforgotten prelim bum being carried from the ring on a stretcher after being victimized by Earthquake's dreaded splash. The massive rulebreaker shot the kid a cold look that seemed to say, "What were you thinking, getting in here with me?"

It would be presumptuous to say it is unlikely Earthquake has changed. His most recent actions

demand as much consideration as all he has done in the past. Still, I would be more convinced Earthquake's intentions if I heard what Jimmy Hart had to say. Hart, Earthquake's manager in The Natural Disasters, is the man who encouraged 'Quake to break rules and bones. He is also the man who now advises Earthquake's old foe Hogan.

The "Mouth Of The South" has said nothing yet about the "new" Earthquake. Possibly because he has nothing to

say, or because he has nothing good to say. Maybe he hasn't been asked yet. After all, he's in Florida these days, helping Hogan during filming of *Thunder In Paradise*.

I'm asking him now. Hart should state publicly his attitude toward his

former charge. Let us know how he feels about what Earthquake has been doing lately. Tell us if he believes the man.

Hart has an obligation to the wrestlers who are considering whether to ally with 'Quake, and the fans who are considering granting him their support. If Hart really is a Hulkamaniac committed to standing up for what is good in the sport, he'll give us his views, whatever they are.

It may be argued that since Hart and Earthquake split up more than a year ago, Hart's views carry less weight. After all, he can't know what man. What he learned then is valid today.

Better still, Hart should meet with Earthquake. If 'Quake's a changed man, he probably wouldn't shy from a face-to-face encounter with his former manager. Hart could call up their old friendship and reinforce Earthquake's instinct toward helping people like Bret Hart.

Such a meeting probably will not happen. Each man has his own agenda. Right now Jimmy Hart is committed to Hogan's career. He has an interest in keeping Hogan happy. The "Hulkster" has forgiven many old enemies, but how easily



One thing that's working in Earthquake's favor is his recent series of victories over Bastion Booger. Anyone with the courage to enter the ring against Booger can't be all bad.

'Quake has been thinking and feeling recently. That's true, but it's also true that Hart is renowned as an incredibly perceptive manager. In the time he spent with Earthquake, he surely made it his business to discover what motivates the

could be forgive the man who tried to end his career?

Most likely, Earthquake will have to win support without Hart's help. Saving the "Hitman" from a beating was a good start.

Just a start.

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ramon

(Continued from page 21)

title—a belt few thought he'd hold for long after he won it last fall—and won the begrudging respect of federation grapplers.

"Forget the gold, Razor's the real deal," says Curt Hennig. "He makes it look so easy out there that you don't appreciate how good he really is."

So why is Razor worried?

"He's become very superstitious," says Hennig. "He knows what it's like to fall from the top. He's terrified of it happening again. As recently as a year ago, the adjective 'underachiever' always seemed attached to his name. No one says that about him these days, but

those thoughts still stick with him. It's like an actor who only remembers his worst reviews."

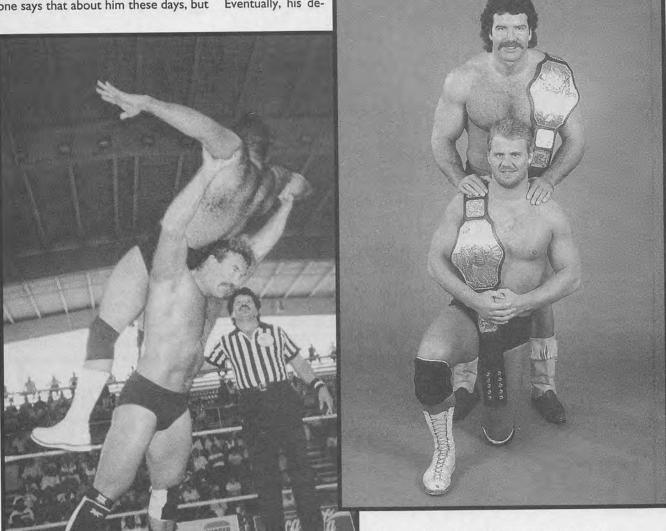
In the ring, Ramon belies such fears. His game is a daring combination of power, speed, and psychology—he preys on his opponent's fear. Could his own fear of failure ultimately spell his doom?

"Ramon is driven by his fears," assures Hennig. "He is going to scare himself straight to the WWF [World]

title. I don't know how long he can maintain his drive. Eventually, his demons will consume him."

But with Ramon, you never know. He's not like other wrestlers. If he fails here, he'll probably come back as someone else someday and do it all over again.

Until winning the I-C belt, Ramon's biggest success came as Scott Hall, when he joined Curt Hennig to win the AWA tag team title. They had a meteoric rise to the top, but slid to the depths nearly as quickly.



Ramon (lifting Miguel Perez III in San Juan) reinvented and revitalized his career while he wrestled in Puerto Rico, immersing himself in the local culture. It's helped him become one of the WWF's most dominant stars.

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Ultimate, Long, Blanchard-Orndorff, November 1990/CENTERFOLD: Legion of Doom. Sting beats Flair, Rude-Warrior.

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HOMETOWN: Bucksnort, TN

HEIGHT: 6'1" WEIGHT: 235 YEARS AS PRO: 17

RATING: No. 42 ("PWI 500")

STRENGTHS:

- •Great brawler. Never backs down from a fight.
- •Durability. Can absorb all kinds of punishment.
- •Specialty matches. At his best in offbeat situations.

WEAKNESSES:

- •Kimberly. Is often too concerned with her welfare at ringside.
- •Not trustworthy. Has swung from rulebreaker to fan favorite too often.
- •Pacing. Has to win a match in the first 15 minutes, or else winning percentage drops significantly.

OTHER COMMENTS: "Dirty White Boy" is in his second reign as Smoky Mountain heavyweight champion; the first, in 1992, came as a rulebreaker ... Defeated Brian Lee both times ... Allied with Len Denton in early-1980s as the original Dirty White Boys tag team ... Captured CWA championship in 1989 ... Won USWA tag title three times in 1990 (twice with Eddie Gilbert, once with Tom Burton).

OUTLOOK FOR 1994: An experienced brawler, his tenacity paid off with a second SMW title. Though Anthony is hardly an accomplished technical wrestler, he can defeat virtually anyone in a specialty match. We'd love to see him take advantage of Smoky's talent agreement with the WWF, and find out what he could do against stars from a major federation. His feisty style could give them fits.

TONY ANTHONY



STEVE AUSTIN



HOMETOWN: Dallas, TX

HEIGHT: 6'2" WEIGHT: 241 YEARS AS PRO: 5

RATING: No. 23 ("PWI 500")

STRENGTHS:

- •Stun gun. Owns one of the finest finishing moves, his variation on the slingshot suplex.
- Psychology. Has mastered the art of defeating an opponent mentally.
- •Combination wrestler. Can quickly apply a devastating series of moves. **WEAKNESSES:**
- Col. Robert Parker. Associates with selfish manager with no recorded successes.
- cesses.
 •Indecisive. Loses effectiveness with switches from solo wrestler to tag teams.
- Believes hype. Thinks he's fulfilled press clippings as next megastar.

OTHER COMMENTS: Current WCW U.S. champion ... The first graduate of Chris Adams' wrestling school in Dallas ... Soon turned against Adams, hiring

Chris' ex-wife, Jeannie, as his valet ... Teamed with Brian Pillman to win WCW World tag team title as The Hollywood Blonds in 1993, but turned against his teammate after Pillman refused to have anything to do with Col. Parker.

OUTLOOK FOR 1994: In the past, Austin has often been consumed by feuds, and it could happen again with Pillman—especially since Parker has a score to settle with "Flyin' Brian." If Austin can instead concentrate on defending his U.S. title, he could enhance his stature as one of North America's most complete wrestlers. "Stunnin' Steve" must also avoid becoming overconfident, a trait that's frequently caused his downfall. Barring a colossal blunder or two, he should continue to enjoy a great year.

HOMETOWN: Edmonton, Alberta

HEIGHT: 5'10" WEIGHT: 218 YEARS AS PRO: 7

RATING: No. 44 ("PWI 500")

STRENGTHS:

 Speed. Can make his moves as quickly as anyone.

•Japanese influence. Wrestles the best aerialists, and learns from them.

 Very calculating. Has an uncommonly high success rate on risky maneuvers.

WEAKNESSES:

•Jet lag. Frequent shuttling between Japan and North America wears him down.

•Dry image. Lack of glitziness hurts him in the eyes of some U.S. promoters.

•Easily provoked. Is susceptible to brawling, which plays away from his greatest strength.

OTHER COMMENTS: Canadian veteran who's won the British

Commonwealth title and teamed to win the Stampede tag team championship with Ben Bassarab and Keith Hart ... Learned much of his skills from the famed Stu Hart, then honed them training with New Japan Pro Wrestling ... Was in WCW for

CHRIS BENOIT



several months, making little impact ... Recently faced Sabu in a battle of aerialists. Benoit won by countout, but refused to accept the decision, and Sabu won the match.

OUTLOOK FOR 1994: Benoit's outstanding technical abilities and meat-and-potatoes style endear him to wrestling purists, and his brilliant aerial skills have also won him a cult following. Benoit's success in Japan hasn't yet been duplicated here, and he didn't do much in WCW. His career is similar to The Kid's, without the big break Kid got last year in the WWF. Benoit desperately needs some sustained success in a U.S. independent federation to get the recognition he deserves.

OWEN HART



HOMETOWN: Calgary, Alberta

HEIGHT: 6' WEIGHT: 223 YEARS AS PRO: 8

RATING: No. 37 ("PWI 500")

STRENGTHS:

•Aerial ability. One of the highest flyers anywhere.

 Hardened. Feud with Bret has made him tougher and more focused.

•Versatility. Can adapt to opponent's style.

WEAKNESSES:

•Limited power. Can't mix it up with much larger foes.

•One-upsmanship. Too concerned with trying to out-Bret Bret.

•Wrong element. Mistakenly amongst rulebreaker crowd.

OTHER COMMENTS: An excellent wrestler in his own right, but many didn't recognize him for it until 1993 ... "The Rocket" beat Papa Shango for USWA title, then lost it to family foe Jerry Lawler ... Began feuding with older brother Bret last fall, turning rule-breaker in the process ... PWI Rookie of the Year (1987) and WWF tag teammate of Koko B. Ware.

OUTLOOK FOR 1994: He's finally become one of the WWF's better-known personalities, but at what cost? Some may perceive him now as a mere Bret wannabe, not the fine technical wrestler he's always been. And what will Owen do once the feud with Bret runs its course? Rather than try to show up Bret, "The Rocket" would be better advised to emphasize the things he can clearly do better than his brother (aerial skills, for instance). That's the way to establish your own identity.

HOMETOWN: Los Angeles, CA

HEIGHT: 6'2" WEIGHT: 262 YEARS AS PRO: 5

RATING: No. 59 ("PWI 500")

STRENGTHS:

•Powerslam. Puts all his weight and force behind the maneuver.

•Relentless brawler. Has a mean attitude. •Fundamentals. Learned at the hands of

Chris Adams. WEAKNESSES:

•Vanity. Bragged about his hairweave, and suffered painfully for it.

•Ring awareness. Will apply moves like the figure-four leglock too close to ropes

•Antagonizes referees. Consequently, rarely gets benefit of the doubt.

OTHER COMMENTS: Until he wins a major title, the "California Stud" will always be best known for having his hairweave pulled off by Chris Adams in a Global match ... Once feuded with Kerry Von Erich and was Steve Austin's teammate when they won the TWF tag title in 1990 ... A two-time Global heavyweight champion, and twice won its tag title with John Tatum ... Was briefly a fan favorite, but it didn't last long.

OUTLOOK FOR 1994: One of the better wrestlers in the Southwest, Price is still feuding with Adams. We understand his anger after the embarrassing hairweave incident, but it may be time for him to move on to other things. He's proven himself as a tag team wrestler, and that might be the best way for him to achieve national prominence. He has the fierceness any potential partner would value.

ROD PRICE



USTRAT

TOP 10

- RIC FLAIR
 - 243, Minneapolis, MN (1) WCW World champion
- YOKOZUNA
 - 550, Samoa (2) WWF World champion
- 3 RAZOR RAMON
 - 291, Minneapolis, MN (3) WWF Intercontinental champion
- SHAWN MICHAELS
 - 220, San Antonio, TX (-) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
- **BRET HART** 235, Calgary, Alberta
 - (5) No. 4 contender: WWF World title
- LEX LUGER 290, Chicago, IL
 - (4) No. 5 contender: WWF World title
- STEVE REGAL
- 247, Blackpool, England (7) WCW TV champion
- 8 STEVE AUSTIN 241, Dallas, TX (6) WCW U.S. champion
- STING 260, Venice Beach, CA
 - (8) No. 4 contender: WCW World title
- RICK RUDE
 - 246, Robbinsdale, MN
 - (9) No. 7 contender: WCW World title

PWI's Top 10



Razor Ramon

TAG TEAMS

- 1 THE QUEBECERS
 - Combined weight: 472 pounds (2) WWF World tag team champions
- 2 THE NASTY BOYS
 - Combined weight: 585 pounds (1) WCW World tag team champions
- 3 CACTUS JACK & MAXX PAYNE
 - Combined weight: 627 pounds (5) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
- RICK & SCOTT STEINER Combined weight: 483 pounds
- (3) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title 5 THE BUSHWHACKERS
- Combined weight: 499 pounds (-) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
- THE MOONDOGS
- Combined weight: 450 pounds
 (8) USWA tag team champions
- 7 2 COLD SCORPIO & MARCUS BAGWELL Combined weight: 460 pounds
 - (6) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 8 JERRY LAWLER & BRIAN CHRISTOPHER Combined weight: 464 pounds (-) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title
- PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA Combined weight: 488 pounds
- (-) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title
- JIM POWERS & THE KID Combined weight: 436 pounds (-) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

WcW

World Champion: RIC FLAIR

(C) 243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1-STEVE AUSTIN (1) 241, Dallas, TX
- 2—STEVE REGAL (3) 247, Blackpool, England
- 3-BIG VAN VADER (2) 450, Denver, CO
- 4—STING (6) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 5-RICK STEAMBOAT (8) 238, Honolulu, HI
- 6-DUSTIN RHODES (5) 254, Austin, TX
- 7-RICK RUDE (4) 246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 8—RON SIMMONS (-) 260, Perry, GA
- 9—THE BOSS (-) 310, Cobb County, GA
- 10-ARN ANDERSON (7) 249, Minneapolis, MN

WWF

World Champion: YOKOZUNA

(C) 550, Samoa

- I-RAZOR RAMON (1) 291, Minneapolis, MN
- (3) 260, Miami, FL SHAWN MICHAELS
- (2) 220, San Antonio, TX BRET HART
- (4) 235, Calgary, Alberta 5-LEX LUGER
- (5) 290, Chicago, IL 6-RANDY SAVAGE
- (8) 245, Sarasota, FL 7-OWEN HART (6) 223, Calgary, Alberta
- 8—JEFF JARRETT (-) 220, Hendersonville, TN
- 9—CRUSH (7) 310, Honolulu, HI
- 10-DOINK THE CLOWN (9) 235, parts unknown

GLOBAL

Global Champion: CHRIS ADAMS

(C) 228, Stratford, England

- 1-ROD PRICE
- (1) 265, Los Angeles, CA 2-MOADIB
- (4) 285, parts unknown 3-SCOTT PUTSKI
- (3) 235, Austin, TX BLACK BART
- (7) 261, Pampa, TX 5-AL PEREZ
- (5) 239, Tampa, FL MARC VALIANT
- (6) 231, Dallas, TX 7—JOHN HAWK
- (8) 280, Sweetwater, TX
- 8-MIKE DAVIS (9) 235, Tampa, FL
- -JEEP SWENSON (-) 253, South Africa
- 10-KOKO B. WARE (-) 229, Union City, TN

USWA

USWA Champion: EDDIE GILBERT (C) 222, Lexington, TN

- 1—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER (2) 230, Memphis, TN
- 2-DOUG GILBERT (1) 241, Lexington, TN
- 3—JERRY LAWLER (C) 234, Memphis, TN
- 4-KOKO B. WARE (7) 229, Union City, TN
- 5—J.C. ICE (6) 221, Memphis, TN
- 6-MIKE ANTHONY (4) 205, Calgary, Alberta
- 7-WOLFIE D (9) 250, parts unknown
- -JEFF GAYLORD (5) 280, St. Louis, MO
- 9—SKULL VON CRUSH (8) 236, parts unknown
- 10-DAN DAVIS
 - (-) 218, Nashville, TN

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

MOST POPULAR

- 1 LEX LUGER 290, Chicago, IL Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular
- 235, Calgary, Alberta Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
- 3 STING 260, Venice Beach, CA Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
- RIC FLAIR 243, Minneapolis, MN Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular
- RANDY SAVAGE 245, Sarasota, FL Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular
- 6 RAZOR RAMON 291, Minneapolis, MN Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular
- 7 TATANKA 260, Miami, FL Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular
- 8 RICK STEAMBOAT 238, Honolulu, HI Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular
- 9 DUSTIN RHODES 254, Austin, TX Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular
- **BRIAN PILLMAN** 226, Cincinnati, OH Last Issue: No. 5 Most Popular

MOST HATED

- YOKOZUNA 550, Samoa Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated
- SHAWN MICHAELS 220, San Antonio, TX Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated
- **BIG VAN VADER** 450, Denver, CO Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated
- 4 EDDIE GILBERT 222, Lexington, TN
- Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated 5 IRWIN R. SCHYSTER
- 245, Syracuse, NY Last issue: unrated RICK RUDE
- 246, Robbinsdale, MN Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated
- **RON SIMMONS** 260, Perry, GA Last issue: unrated
- DIESEL 356, Las Vegas, NV Last issue: unrated
- CRUSH 310, Honolulu, HI Last Issue: No. 7 Most Hated
- STEVE REGAL 247, Blackpool, England Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated

For period ended March 4, 1994

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each categories. points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1-YOKOZUNA81	points
2-BIG VAN VADER64	points
3-RIC FLAIR64	points
4-BRET HART60	points
5-RAZOR RAMON45	points

TAG TEAMS

1-THE NASTY BOYS76	points
2-RICK & SCOTT STEINER74	points
3-THE QUEBECERS58	points
4-2 COLD SCORPIO & MARCUS BAGWELL51	points
5—THE HEAVENLY BODIES45	points

SMOKY MOUNTAIN

Smoky Mountain Champion: ECW Champion: TONY ANTHONY

(C) 235, Bucksnort, TN 1-BRIAN LEE

(C) 251, Los Angeles, CA

2-TRACEY SMOTHERS (3) 227, Atlanta, GA

CHRIS CANDIDO (5) 226, Carteret, NJ

BOBBY BLAZE (2) 222, Charlotte, NC

5-MONGOLIAN STOMPER (-) 239, Mongolia

6-KILLER KYLE (6) 303, Atlanta, GA

7-ROBBIE EAGLE (10) 225, Raleigh, NC

8-RICK MORTON (8) 228, Memphis, TN

-TOM PRICHARD (-) 220, Houston, TX

10-PRINCE KHARIS (9) 267, Cairo

ECW

TERRY FUNK

(C) 247, Amarillo, TX

1-SABU

(1) 220, Bombay

2—SHANE DOUGLAS (2) 223, Pittsburgh, PA

3-TASMANIAC (4) 221, Tasmania

4-MR. HUGHES (7) 308, Kansas City, KS

5-AXL ROTTEN (10) 302, Philadelphia, PA

-KEVIN SULLIVAN (3) 252, Boston, MA

7-TOMMY DREAMER (5) 245, Yonkers, NY

TOMMY CAIRO (6) 257, Philadelphia, PA

THE SANDMAN (8) 244, Philadelphia, PA

THE SHEIK (9) 233, Saudi Arabia ICWA: ICWA Champion—Jumbo Barretta; 1—Frankie Rose; 2—Surgeon General; 3—Sonny T; 4—Kenny Kendall; 5—Rico Fredrico; 6—Lanny Poffo; 7—Jammin Johnny; 8—Coconut Kid; 9—Bill Payne; 10—Cuban Assassin.

IWCCW: IWCCW Champion—Title Vacant; 1—Tito Santana; 2—Manny Fernandez; 3—Cousin Luke; 4—Joe Savoldi; 5—Chris Michaels; 6—Gino Caruso; 7—Power Blaster I; 8—Kodiak Bear; 9—Power Blaster II; 10—L.A. Gore.

PWA: PWA Champion—The Hater; 1—Nailz; 2—Jerry Lynn; 3—Tommy Ferrara; 4—Derrick Dukes; 5—Billy Blaze; 6—Brad Rheingans; 7—Ricky Rice; 8—Randy Gusto; 9—Masked Jungle Fighter; 10—Hawk.

PWF: PWF Champion—Italian Stallion; 1—George South; 2—Flaming Youth; 3— Masked Maniac; 4—Cruel Connection II; 5—Terry Austin; 6—Austin Steele; 7—Russian Assassin II; 8—Randy Sledge; 9—Star Ryder; 10—Super Ninja.

SOUTHERN STATES WRESTLING: SSW Champion-Wayne Rogers; 1-G. Q. Stratus; 2—Mike Samson; 3—The Mongolian Stomper; 4—Skyfire; 5—Danny Christian; 6—Eddie Golden; 7—Billy Marshall; 8—Alex Shane; 9—Keith Hart; 10—

USA: USA TV Champion—Bruiser Brian; 1—Lou Andrews; 2—Col. DeBeers; 3— Larry Oliver; 4—Silver Shadow; 5—Jesse Barr; 6—Dane Rush; 7—John Rambo; 8— Jim Pope; 9-Karl Pope; 10-Sumito.

WWA: WWA Champion—Friendly Frank; 1—Boy Gone Bad; 2—Ray Odyssey; 3— Abudah Singh; 4—Chris Powers; 5—Ed the Razor; 6—Duane Gill; 7—Barry Hardy; 8—The Spider; 9—Akita Kaos; 10—Venom.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 20 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important-and respected-ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans

The senior circuit? A quick check of our ratings over the last few months shows some very interesting things. For one, a number of wrestlers some fans say are "over the hill" are doing very well.

Ric Flair continues to amaze everyone. He pulled off a huge upset—and staved off retirement—by defeating Big Van Vader for the WCW World title at Starrcade '93. He followed that up by beating Vader in a brutal "Thundercage" rematch at SuperBrawl IV in February. The "Nature Boy" went into that match injured.

At age 49, Terry Funk reigns atop ECW. The Sheik, 20 years Funk's senior, wrestled remarkably well in a recent ECW tag team match.

As of press time, Jerry Lawler, a 24-year veteran, had an amazing 19 USWA titles to his name and was still going strong.



Jerry Lawler

"The King" also held his own in WWF competition in 1993 and may soon return to the federation.

In Smoky Mountain, not only is the sixtysomething Bob Armstrong back to work as commissioner (thanks to The Bullet's victory over Funk in Knoxville, Tennessee), he also still competes from time to time. At press time, he was preparing for a series of handicap matches against rulebreak-

ing manager Jim Cornette and Dick Murdoch, another ageless veteran.

"Bullet" Bob also signed to face Cornette one on one in several steel cage matches. Not bad for a man who some rulebreakers have said should be collecting Social Security checks or wasting away in an old folks' home!

SMW's **Prince Kharis**, of course, takes the cake. The mummified rulebreaker, who's managed by **Daryl Van Horne**, claims to be more than 300,000 years old. Needless to say, we have our doubts.

But the list could go on and on ... Randy Savage, Greg Valentine (who's back in the WWF on a part-time basis), The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Jimmy Snuka, Col. DeBeers, Tommy Rich, even legendary five-time WWF World champion Hulk Hogan. They've all been accused of being well past their physical prime. That might be true, but some people say these veterans don't

belong in the ring anymore. Judging from their accomplishments in the ring during the last year, that simply isn't so.

Those wrestlers mentioned in the previous paragraph have many things in common, including the fact that they all held important titles at one time in 1993. If that isn't a solid argument against a mandatory retirement age in the mat sport, we don't know what is.

There are certainly some instances when wrestlers go on longer than they should and embarrass themselves in the ring.

Intelligence and experience are very important in wrestling, maybe more important than in any other sport. Most of the wrestlers who have been competing for decades know how to pace themselves. They know what kind of shape they're in and know what it takes to win matches ... and championships.

Rest assured, the veteran wrestlers you see in our rankings have earned their standing. We haven't rated them just because they're well-known.

Injury update. SuperBrawl IV was a very painful pay-per-view for several WCW stars. We're not just speaking of wrestlers like Vader and Arn Anderson, both of whom came oh-so-close to winning titles. The two who felt the most pain in Albany, Georgia, had to be Brian Knobs of The Nasty Boys and Cactus Jack.

Knobs suffered a dislocated right shoulder after he was suplexed



Brian Knobs

by Maxx Payne. Jack suffered internal injuries when he was shoulderblocked from the ring apron onto the concrete floor. Though both injuries caused concern, neither man was expected to miss much time.

Ludvig Borga is taking a little longer than expected to recover from an ankle injury. He was to be replaced by Adam Bomb for a match against Earthquake at WrestleMania X. Borga still

plans on coming back as soon as possible.

What do you think of these veterans? Have we given them too much credit here? How do you feel about a mandatory retirement age in wrestling? Let us know what you think about these issues and any other topics related to our ratings. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o Pro Wrestling Illustrated, Box 956, Fort Washington, PA 19034.

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V R BOLL DE

Former "Nasty" Manager Resurfaces In WWN MISSY HYATT ENTERS SHANE DOUGLAS' CAMP

By V.J. PATERNO

NEW YORK—The World Wrestling Network's inaugural card was exciting for many reasons, including a surprise appearance by Missy Hyatt, former manager of the current WCW World tag team champion Nasty Boys. Hyatt showed up for a TV taping at the Manhattan Center, the former home of WWF Monday Night Raw, and was at Shane Douglas' side during an interview with Boni Blackstone.

Douglas did not wrestle on the card.

What makes Hyatt's affiliation with Douglas, a regular ECW competitor, all the more puzzling is that he already has a manager: Sherri Martel. Sherri was also at the Manhattan Center, managing The Convict, and helped Douglas pummel Jake Roberts during his bout with Keith Scherer.

"I can make Shane Douglas a little nastier," said Hyatt. "He's got a lot of talent, and I'm always on the lookout for men who could go straight to the top. We could make quite a team."



Douglas introduced Hyatt as his "head cheerleader," and didn't indicate if she would perform managerial duties or co-exist in his camp with Martel. In February, Hyatt was banned for undisclosed reasons from WCW, where Martel ironically now manages on a part-time basis.

"We'll see what happens," said Martel. "I don't back down from anyone and I plan to stay with Shane. That's all I want to say on the subject."

Said Hyatt, "I'll be a cheerleader if Shane wants, but believe me, I can be much more! Shane knows what I can do from his WCW days."

Missy Hyatt is back in wrestling! The former manager of The Nasty Boys, recently banned by WCW, resurfaced in the new World Wrestling Network as "head cheerleader" to former WCW star Shane Douglas.

SMW Tag Belts Change Hands Twice ... In Michigan

By DAVE LENKER

TAYLOR, MI—Jim Cornette and The Heavenly Bodies got quite a scare when they took a brief vacation from their nightly Smoky Mountain wars to compete on two Midwest Territorial Wrestling cards in Michigan. Problem was, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Cornette's arch-rivals, also went on the two-day tour.

The first night, in Port Huron, Cornette taunted Rick Morton and Robert Gibson, saying the Bodies couldn't be forced to put their SMW belts on the line. MTW Commissioner Gary Woronchak, however, announced that Cornette had signed a contract stat-

ing Jim Del Ray and Tom Prichard would defend the belts at least once in Michigan. The manager then agreed it would be that night.

Much to the delight of the crowd, The Rock 'n' Rolls dominated the bout and won the title. One night later, however, the Bodies regrouped and reclaimed the belts.

"I hope those two idiots had fun in their one day as champs," said Cornette, "because that's the last time they'll get their hands on these beautiful belts. It doesn't matter where we wrestle—The Heavenly Bodies will always be better!"

Steamboat & Anderson To Form Team?

ATLANTA—Arn Anderson, who on a permanent basis, then we'll go has been seeking a tag team partner right after The Nasty Boys or whoever since former Horseman Paul Roma gets in our way."

became a rulebreaker, may have found

one in Rick "The Dragon" Steamboat.

champ Steve Austin and WCW TV

champ Lord Steven Regal at a TV tap-

ing at Center Stage Theater.

The two joined forces to defeat U.S.

Ironically, Ric Flair, Anderson's number-one ally, was at press time preparing to defend his WCW World title against Steamboat at Spring Stampede on April 17. That has led some people to speculate that the "Nature Boy" has gotten Anderson to give him a scouting report on Steamboat

"That's not true," Anderson said. "I have too much respect for Rick Steamboat to do something as underhanded as that."

them. Obviously, Arn's a great man and an outstanding wrestler. If we decide it's in our best interests to team

much, so we pooled our efforts to beat

nent planned," said Steamboat. "Nei-

ther of us likes Austin or Regal very

"For now we've got nothing perma-

Quebecers Turning Fan Favorites?

By CHRIS BERNUCCA

MONTREAL—The Smokin' Gunns, Billy and Bart, weren't sure how to approach their match against the WWF World tag team champion Quebecers at the Forum. The Gunns are usually one of the most popular tag teams in the federation, while Jacques and Pierre usually hear the catcalls.

Roles were reversed, however, as the approximately 8,000 fans in attendance showered their hometown heroes with cheers. The crowd loved it when the rulebreaking champions attacked the Gunns before the bell and dominat-

ed the bout for several minutes.

Billy and Bart rallied. They almost won the belts after Billy delivered a flying elbowsmash on Pierre, who kicked out just before the three-count.

Billy then climbed to the

top rope again, wwr tag champs The Quectop rope again, becers became fan favorites only to be pushed for a day—in their home off by Jacques, province—and beat The who was outside Smokin' Gunns.

the ring. Pierre

recovered and pinned Billy.

"We don't expect Jacques and Pierre to play by the rules all the time," said one fan in atten-

dance, "but we love 'em anyway. They're a bit like that Jerry Lawler—they're only nice guys when they get close to home."

AROUND THE GLOBE

BEDFORD, ENGLAND

Davey Boy Smith, absent from WCW since December, has excelled in independent federations back in his native Great Britain. He recently teamed with Tony Stewart to defeat Karl Kramer and The Ring Destroyer. With WCW and the WWF occasionally touring the U.K., the "British Bulldog" could do some scouting in case he's thinking of returning to the States.

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

The International Wrestling
Association is off to a flying start.
Ricky Santana was crowned as the promotion's initial North American champion. Other well-known wrestlers on the IWA's first two cards were former Smoky Mountain champion Brian Lee, The Bruise Brothers, Kevin Sullivan, Tommy Dreamer, and The Head-

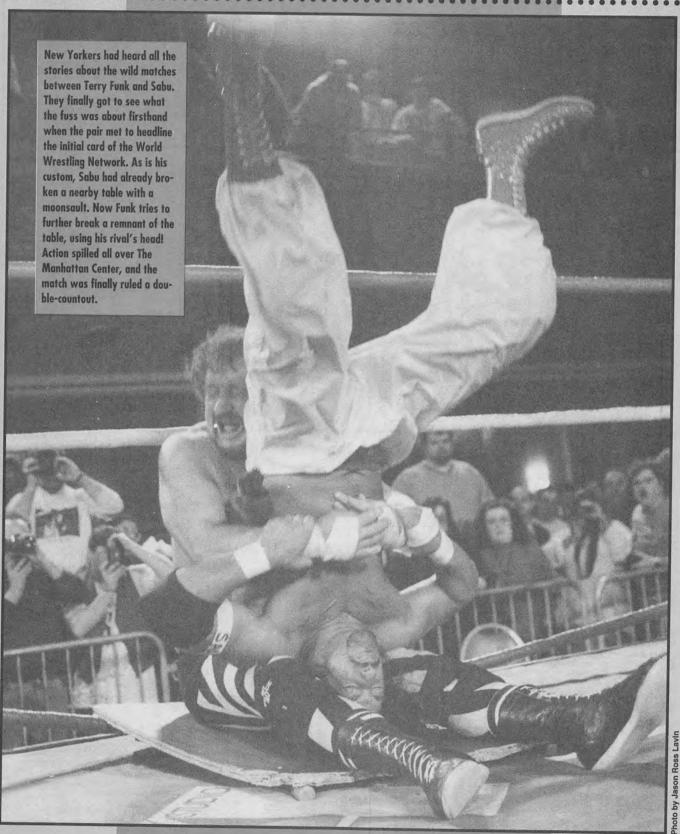
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TORONTO, ONTARIO

Sparky Plugg has been in the WWF for only a few months, but he's already making a name for himself. His good looks make him popular with female fans, but his speed, agility, and intelligence make him a tough foe for anyone who has to wrestle him. Plugg won his biggest match to date here by knocking off cagey veteran (and Canada native)

Rick Martel.

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